

Monday June 15 1998

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USA D 8.50
Yugoslavia D 8.50

The Guardian

Printed in London, Manchester, Frankfurt and Roubaix

12 pages of top sports coverage

Sport

Page 13



D-day for England in Marseille

Peter Preston on: Bazza fodder

Television is in retreat and the cinema has been reborn

Comment, page 8

Larry Elliott looks at:

Brown's study in blue and red

Finance, page 12

Nato turns screw on Serbs

Blair warns of air strikes in Kosovo

Martin Walker
European Editor

TONY BLAIR will tell European leaders at the Cardiff summit today that Nato may have to deploy air strikes against Serbian forces in Kosovo without a formal

mandate from the United Nations Security Council. Much now hinges on a meeting in Moscow today between the Russian president, Boris Yeltsin, and President Slobodan Milosevic of Yugoslavia. Mr Yeltsin has been entrusted by the US, Britain, Germany and other members of the international Contact Group on the former Yugoslavia with the job of convincing

Mr Milosevic to withdraw his army from Kosovo and end attacks on its largely ethnic Albanian population. "If Milosevic refuses, it would be desirable to have a UN mandate, but whether it would be legally necessary would depend on the situation on the ground," a Downing Street spokesman said last night. "If things continue as they are, the [military] option may have to be deployed last."

Mr Blair, arriving for a summit meeting, said: "We will review every option. Nothing is ruled out." As Nato warplanes begin exercises around Kosovo today, the US, Britain and Germany are agreed that to

prevent more Serb atrocities they may have to act speedily and without the legal niceties of the UN. Other international military operations, including the Gulf war and in Bosnia, were carried out under the UN's legal authority. The move will dismay neutral European Union countries, such as Ireland and Sweden, and Nato members like Denmark and the Netherlands. They fear a risky precedent in international law if Nato is free to take military action without UN authority.

"To participate in such action, Denmark would need the UN mandate," its defence minister, Hans Haekkerup, said yesterday as two Danish fighter jets flew to join the Nato forces around Kosovo. Six British RAF Jaguar fighter-bombers have joined a total of 50 Nato warplanes from 10 countries preparing for today's live-fire exercises over Albania and Macedonia, intended to provide visible proof of Nato's military power to Serb forces in neighbouring Kosovo.

Behind the issue of the UN mandate which Britain is currently trying to achieve at the Security Council lies a political decision by the Clinton administration that the US, and the Nato alliance it leads, cannot let their hands be tied. "Nato works by consensus. That means that all the countries ultimately agree or there is no action," the US defence secretary, William Cohen, said this weekend. "To subordinate Nato's concern for security to the United Nations is inadvisable and not necessary."

In Germany, in an unusually co-ordinated series of statements by both government and opposition leaders, the defence minister, Volker Rühle, and the Social Democrat leaders, Gerhard Schröder and Rudolf Scharping, stressed yesterday that Nato might have to act alone. "It would be ideal to have a UN mandate for active intervention in Kosovo," Mr Rühle said yesterday.



England fans on rampage

John Duncan in Marseille
and Stuart Miller

ENGLAND fans fought running battles with riot police last night after smashing bar and restaurant windows in the centre of Marseille. Police used tear gas to break up disturbances involving hundreds of England supporters as fears of serious crowd trouble at England's opening World Cup match against Tunisia today escalated. One of Marseille's main squares became a no-go area under a hail of broken glass, and chairs and tables were thrown through restaurant windows.

As England fans tried to attack the square from a side street, they were repeatedly repelled by police firing tear gas. One fan told a friend: "This is what the World Cup is all about."

At least 15,000 supporters — the largest travelling support for an England team — were arriving in Marseille, many without tickets. They were joining the 2,000 or so who spent the weekend in the city. It is understood National Criminal Intelligence Services football spotters, 14 of whom are working with French police during the World Cup, pointed out four category C English hooligans — the most violent and organised — to French officers.

Police have also tracked two groups of Category C fans in Amsterdam and Barcelona, who are expected to try to enter France today. Yesterday's trouble flared initially after the square, beside the marina of the city's Old Port area had filled with England and Tunisia fans at opposite ends, the two groups congregating round two cafes 200 metres apart. As Tunisian supporters in cars drove round the square again and again, ritual taunts were exchanged and the atmosphere quickly turned from festive to tense.

The two groups were separated again to opposite ends of the square but England fans, some throwing bottles, began to chant and taunt police. A French police snatch squad of around 25 officers moved in to target bottle-throwers and ring-leaders among the English group. Police made six arrests, four of them English and two Tunisian, embassy sources said.

Trouble flared again two hours later outside O'Malley's Irish pub, where 250 English supporters had gathered, when police used tear gas on bottle-throwing fans. As tension grew in Marseille, British industry was bracing itself for what has been dubbed "Idle Monday", with millions of workers preparing to down tools to watch the England game.



England supporters burning a Tunisian flag in Marseille yesterday, the eve of their team's opening World Cup match against the African side

PHOTOGRAPH: PHILIPPE LAURENSEN

How the Cape Town sun set on Ulster's future

John Meehan
Ireland Correspondent

THE message was clear enough. The decision, of course, was down to Northern Ireland's voters, but if they chose to back the Good Friday Agreement in the referendum an idyllic future beckoned.

Perhaps it would be like that enjoyed by the family of four on the cover of the agreement, sent to every household. They seemed to be having a rare old time, coddling up to each other on a lovely beach with a breathtaking sunset behind them.

There was no escaping the youthful family. As well as going into every home in Northern Ireland, mum, dad, daughter and son featured on billboards everywhere until voters backed the Yes camp with a resounding margin of 71 per cent to 28 per cent. No one knew who they were. The agreement hardly aided attempts to trace them. There was no reference whatsoever to the photograph, adorning the cover of the 845,000 copies printed.

Now the truth can at last be told. The family were models — South African models. They were not strutting along the sands of Fort Stewart or Tyrella, but 6,200 miles away in Cape Town in that other land of hitherto fearsome division.

Richard West, literary editor of Belfast-based photography magazine Source, traced its origins. He turned detective when two facts struck him. The sun sets in the west. Northern Ireland has no west coast. QED.

His hunt took him to the photo-agency in London which had supplied the picture to Northern Ireland's advertising specialists, and then on to the photographer himself, Roger Ellis, a German, was rather surprised. He hailed from Hamburg, but had been living in South Africa in 1996.



Out of Africa: the cover of the agreement booklet

Inside

Britain

World News

Sport

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Health authority admits liability for death of handicapped 12-year-old after parents followed psychiatrist's advice on sleep cure

Dead girl's parents win £100,000

Claire Dyer
Legal Correspondent

A COUPLE whose severely handicapped daughter collapsed and died after they followed a psychiatrist's instructions not to go to her at night, no matter how much she screamed, have won a £100,000 out-of-court settlement.

The agreement with Leicestershire health authority in-

cludes £70,000 damages for post-traumatic stress disorder (PTSD) developed by both parents as a result of their ordeal. They lost substantial earnings because it left them unable to return to work for a substantial time. The father, an accountant, received £40,000 for PTSD and the mother £30,000.

The Guardian has agreed not to name the couple, who are still suffering psychologically from their daughter's death eight years ago at the age of 12. She suffered from

cerebral palsy and epilepsy and was profoundly mentally handicapped from birth. She was partially sighted, unable to speak, incontinent, unable to move her limbs spontaneously and could communicate only by screaming.

She never developed a proper sleeping pattern and would frequently cry or scream during the night. Over the years her desperate parents consulted a variety of doctors to no avail.

In 1991 they saw a psychiatrist employed by Leicestershire health authority, who specialised in sleep disorders. He recommended a five-point plan using the acronym Sleep to try to get their daughter to establish a pattern of sleeping through the night. The instructions were:

'Because he specialised in sleep disorders they assumed he was giving the correct advice. They had such faith in this doctor'

S — Set a regular bedtime routine and stick to it
L — Leave child in bed and ignore her entreaties
E — Even if the child cries
P — Persist, unless the child is physically ill

On August 1, 1991, after returning from a holiday, the parents put their daughter to bed at 8pm. She started to scream, but they followed the psychiatrist's advice and left her alone. At 8am next morning her mother found her hyperventilating, dehydrated and distressed. Within an hour she stopped breathing and died.

Her parents issued proceedings against the health authority in 1994. Their solicitors, Alexander Harris of Altrincham, Cheshire, who

specialise in medical negligence, obtained experts' reports pinning the blame on the health authority. The authority finally admitted liability and has now paid £100,000 to settle the claim. Ann Alexander, senior partner of Alexander Harris, said: "We hear a lot of tragic stories but this was one of the most tragic we've ever come across. I can't imagine anything worse than what the parents went through."

The hardest thing about looking after their daughter

was that she didn't sleep at night. They tried everything, but nothing worked. "Then this doctor said the only way to cure her is to put her to bed, close the door, and go downstairs. Because he specialised in sleep disorders they assumed he was giving the correct advice. They had such faith in this doctor that they believed if they didn't go into the room every night it would be OK."

No one from the health authority could be reached for comment yesterday.



Crew lower the tricolour as Pen Duick docks at Milford Haven. PHOTOGRAPH: DYLAN MARTINEZ

'Man of the sea' mourned

Jon Henley in Paris

A SPOTTER plane fruitlessly searched the seas off the Welsh coast from early morning till nightfall yesterday for the veteran French sailor Eric Tabary, lost in the early hours of Saturday from his 100-year-old yacht, Pen Duick.

Officials admitted they were searching only for his body, and had no hope of finding the Breton yachtsman and national hero alive, 40 hours after he fell from his boat while adjusting the sails.

Tributes to Tabary, a taciturn seadog who infused a whole nation with a passion for his sport, flowed in from fellow sailors, friends and politicians. In the midst of World Cup fever, his disappearance dominated front pages and television news in France.

Chay Blyth, the British round-the-world sailor, said

Tabary was "the world's best sailor". Marc Pajot described him as "a leader, a boss, a patron, a man of example more than of words — but with few words he said so much".

Tabary, aged 66, was knocked overboard south of the port of Milford Haven, on route from Cornwall to Northern Ireland. He was taking in sail on the lovingly-restored 19th century cutter in which he had learned to sail as a boy.

In a career spanning 35 years, his record-breaking success turned sailing — and particularly the gruelling sport of long-distance single and dual-handed ocean racing — into a French national passion.

"Eric Tabary was so present in the heart of the French people I dared not believe he had disappeared," said President Jacques Chirac, who waited a full day after others had given Tabary up for dead before making his tribute.

"It is with great sadness and emotion that I have to face the evidence. This fantastic sailor, endowed with a unique sense of the sea, lifted the colours of our country high on the world's oceans."

The prime minister, Lionel Jospin, called Tabary a symbol for all of France, "the incarnation of all the virtues of the sea: pugnacity, rectitude, humanity".

Veteran as he was, Tabary was wearing neither life-vest nor safety harness. The black-hulled Pen Duick — Breton for black-headed tit — had no radio. In the dark, in a force-five wind and 15-foot seas, the four other crew on board threw a lifebuoy over the side but could not see whether he had caught it, and were unable to turn the boat around to search for him. The four were all middle-aged friends of Tabary and had little sailing experience.

They fired off flares throughout the night to at-



Eric Tabary, pictured aboard his lovingly-restored 19th century cutter, Pen Duick, in 1996. PHOTOGRAPH: EMANUEL PAIN

tract the attention of passing vessels, but it was not until 7am that an Australian yacht, Longo-Borea, came alongside and relayed the alarm to Milford Haven coastguard.

Born on July 24, 1931, in Nantes, Tabary first came to attention in 1964 when he beat Sir Francis Chichester to win the Plymouth-Newport single-handed transatlantic race, in the second of his six

Pen Duick yachts, Pen Duick II. In 1967 he won the Fastnet and the Sydney-Hobart. In 1968 he set a new record between the Canaries and the Antilles, and in 1969 was victorious in the single-handed transatlantic from San Francisco to Tokyo.

Seven years later came his second victory in the solo transatlantic, this time at the helm of Pen Duick VI, a boat

designed for a crew of 10 but which Tabary sailed single-handed. He survived an early dismasting and was out of radio contact for nearly three weeks, but still won in 23 days and 20 hours.

In 1980 he broke the 75-year-old transatlantic record, in a time of 10 days, five hours, 14 minutes and 30 seconds, and last year he emerged from retirement to capture the two-

man Route du Café transatlantic with another French skipper, Yves Parlier.

French sailors portrayed him as a legendary figure. "We are all his grandchildren," said Laurent Bourgon, Olivier de Kersauson, his sailing partner for 10 years, said he felt orphaned: "I still can't believe it. Sailors like Eric — they happen once every 100 years."

Tabary was a blunt man, who once turned down lunch with General de Gaulle, because the tide would not wait for the launch of Pen Duick III.

He wrote last year: "I never call on God for help when I'm in difficulties. If he dumps me in the drink, why should he come to fish me out again?"

Obituaries, page 10

Bank float could earn Chancellor's ally £75m

Jill Treanor on a key decision for partners at Goldman Sachs

ONE of Gordon Brown's closest friends could today become a multi-millionaire if the exclusive and highly secretive US bank Goldman Sachs decides to end decades of tradition and float its shares on the stock market.

Such a flotation would release instant personal windfalls of up to \$125 million each (£75 million) for the bank's partners, who include Gavin Davies — its chief UK economist and husband of Sue Nye, one of the Chancellor's closest advisers.

The winnings from a sell-off expected to give the bank a stock market price tag of \$21 billion will be even greater for some of the American partners.

The bank's chairman, Jon Corzine, is tipped to pick up \$600 million if the float goes ahead.

Other beneficiaries include Peter Sutherland, the former EU Commissioner who is now chairman of Goldman Sachs International, and John O'Neill, a currency guru at the bank.

Goldman Sachs's 190 partners met in New York State over the weekend and were asked to state their preferences for the future of the prestigious bank in a secret survey.

The results were last night being considered by the executive committee. A decision is expected to be announced today.

The partners — 37 of whom are based in London alongside Mr Davies, who is tipped as the next governor of the Bank of England — filed in the surveys at the end of their two-day annual general meeting this weekend in a quiet, leafy New York suburb.

Instead of holding a public vote on flotation proposals during the gathering, the partners concluded their meeting with a wide-ranging debate on the future ownership structure of the firm. They then filed in the surveys, which will remain

anonymous, and left the meeting without knowing whether the 129-year-old partnership was about to be broken.

"There isn't a decision," one Goldman insider said after the meeting broke up on Saturday.

"Stories that the outcome of the meeting was a vote in favour of floating are pure speculation — there has been no decision as yet."

It is thought that the executive committee is divided over the flotation idea.

At least two powerful members of the management committee, John Thornton and John Thain, are believed to favour the status quo. However Mr Corzine and Henry Poulson, the president, are behind going public and releasing their multi-million pound investments in the firm.

Although it is one of the most successful investment banks, some Goldman partners now believe the firm should be floated so that it can better compete with its rivals, who are consolidating rapidly. However, some partners fear — as do many employees — that if it becomes a public company Goldman will lose its much-coveted partnership culture.

Bank insiders have attacked the British press for presenting the flotation debate as an orgy of unprecedented greed. An insider insisted the weekend meeting was about determining what was best for the bank and its employees.

But some mischievous on-lookers suggest the bank may have missed its moment. They say a float may not be practicable until September by which time, many experts believe, the stock market boom will be well and truly over.

Wild Wales roars from the roots

Review

Garth Cartwright

The Stereophonics

Cardiff Castle

CARDIFF is blustery and buzzing with excitement. It's a feeling akin to that currently surging across the streets of Paris: people are surging on the energy, rushing towards Cardiff Castle, wanting to bear witness.

Inside the castle, the atmosphere is electric. Support bands Subcircuit and The Warm Jets receive a polite response from the crowd of 10,000 — but, no mistaking, they are only here for the headlines.

As twilight fades, a stocky young man strides towards the stage and Cardiff's youth rise and surge forward. Homecomings are rarely more triumphant than this.

The Stereophonics are the biggest new British rock band of the past year. Yet their rise was not heralded upon the cover of trade magazines and followed by heavy rotation on Radio 1. Instead, a Trojan

work ethic found them continually touring, their gutsy hard rock drawing an emotional charge from teenagers reminiscent of Nirvana's power earlier this decade. Having sold 150,000 copies of their debut album *Word Gets Around*, the trio could be heralded as an overnight sensation. Not quite. Years spent playing Welsh working men's clubs have made the Stereophonics tighter than Mick Jagger's wallet. Such an apprenticeship, where they were paid in beer and boos, has lent them an unmistakable hunger and toughness. Coming from a

country dominated by Geros and mental jobs, their songs are charged with uncertainty and loss.

The band's members grew up as neighbours in Cwmaman, a one-hearse village halfway between Cardiff and Swansea in the Rhondda Valley. They're fiercely proud of their roots — their Top Of The Pops debut was filmed on Cwmaman's main street.

The last time Cardiff Castle's Victorian Gothic interior hosted a rock concert was 20 years ago. This time the occasion was Cardiff's hosting of the European summit. The tickets could have been sold three times over. The gig was billed as Cwmaman Feel The Noise, and, given the roar when the village's most famous sons took the stage, Cwmaman surely did.

For 90 minutes the Stereophonics detonated intense musical heat. Welsh contemporaries the Super Furry Animals and Catatonia are infinitely more self-conscious; this is meat 'n' potatoes rock delivered with panache. There is irony, rather than irony, in their soul.

An acoustic interlude allowed the rhythm section to grab a beer while guitarist/vocalist Kelly Jones tried out new songs. His husky voice and dark features drawing appreciative comment from female fans, Jones was once approached by the BBC to write a radio play, and in his observations of small-town suicides and everyday banality he captures essential truths Dylan Thomas would have admired.

Yet the Stereophonics are rockers first and foremost, and Jones soon swapped his acoustic guitar for electric. Bouncing around the stage, flicking out chords, snarling, wired on energy and electricity, they set Cardiff alight.

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'Berlin will surely win'

Richard Norton-Taylor

ON NOVEMBER 28, 1914, Casement wrote a letter from Berlin to an Irish nationalist in Dublin, Eoin Mac Neill. Despite his precautions, it was intercepted by MI5 and never reached its intended destination.

The letter was posted from Rotterdam to Mrs A S Green in Westminster, an Irish Volunteer known to MI5. The letter to Prof Mac Neill was enclosed in separate envelope. In the outer letter, Casement wrote to Mrs Green: "Send this on by hand. Read it if you like it is a sacred confidence. But send it on by sure means. With much love from the man of Three Cows."

Casement continued: "He is well, and he has convincing assurance of help, recognition, friends and comfort for the poor old woman. All that he asks for will be given her and the stranger (presumably a reference to Britain) put out of her house for ever. He has seen the big men (German general staff) and they are [at] one with his views and if successful they will aid to the utmost to redeem the four green fields. [the four Irish provinces?]"

Questioned by MI5 after Casement's arrest, Alice Green explained that the reference to the Three Cows was "a joke". It referred to the Woman of the Three Cows, "a very humorous Irish poem he used to laugh with me about". In his letter to Mac Neill, sealed inside a separate envelope, and typed in italic script, Casement said: "You know who writes this."

"The Enemy are doing everything to keep the truth out of Ireland and are even going to try to get the Vatican on their side, as in the time of Parnell."

Casement asks Mac Neill to send him, via Norway, "one or two thoroughly patriotic Irish priests — young men best. Men like Father Murphy of Vinegar Hill ... Our friends in America will pay all expenses."

He told Mac Neill: "Warn all our people, too, of the present intrigue at Rome to bring the pressure of religion to bear on a question wholly political and national. Our enemy will stick at no crime today against Ireland as you will soon know."

"The enemy are hiding the truth. The Germans will surely, under God, defeat both Russia and France and compel a peace that will leave Germany stronger than ever before ... India and Egypt will probably both be in arms."

Casement concluded: "We may win everything by this war if we are true to Germany. And if we do not win today we ensure international recognition of Irish nationality and hand an uplifted cause for our sons."



Dublin city centre after the crushing of the 1916 Easter Rising. Casement was arrested three days before the revolt and hanged in prison on August 3



Sir Roger Casement: traitor to Britain, martyr for Ireland

German betrayal turned Sir Roger Casement's enthusiasm for the 1916 Easter Rising into despair, once-secret MI5 papers show. **Richard Norton-Taylor reports**

Irish hero knew uprising would fail

SIR ROGER CASEMENT, the Irish nationalist executed for high treason, knew that the 1916 Easter Rising was doomed to failure after Germany reneged on its promises to send troops to help the rebels, newly-released papers at the Public Record Office reveal.

Casement told his MI5 interrogators he had been let down by Germany but unless he accepted what he called its "wholly futile scheme" — the supply of a limited amount of weapons — he would be "branded by his friends in Ireland and America as a coward and traitor to their cause".

"I have done nothing dishonourable, as you will one day learn ... I came ... knowing that you were bound to catch me," he told Frank Hall, a senior MI5 officer, and Sir Basil Thomson, Scotland Yard head of CID.

After the secret interrogation, Thomson wrote to Sir Esmay Blackwell, the Home Office legal adviser, in June 1918: "Throughout his various statements to us, Casement made it clear that he had started from Germany with the idea of heading a rebellion, though he believed it hopeless." Thomson added

Rebel with a sacred cause

□ Born Kingstown, now Dun Laoghaire, Co Dublin, on September 1, 1864.

□ Consular official in Africa (1895-1904) and Brazil (1906-1911). Won knighthood in 1912 for exposing exploitation of native workers by white traders in Congo and Peru.

□ Forced by ill-health to retire in 1912. Returned to Ireland in 1912. Returned to Ireland in 1912.

□ With outbreak of first world war, hoped Germany would assist independence movement. It reneged on pledge to send officers to lead 1916 Rising.

□ Arrested on landing in Ireland from German submarine, April 21, 1916. Hanged as traitor, August 31, in Pentonville prison.

erling from illness — was informed that the German general staff would provide the Irish rebels with 20,000 rifles and 10 machine guns, but no officers or men.

In a letter from Berlin's Hotel Saxon, Casement told his friend, Count von Wedel: "I am being used as a tool, a passive agent, powerless to act according to my judgment ... practically a prisoner". He described the plan as "futile" and said he was "opposed to revolt unless backed up by strong foreign military help".

In 1919, after the war, Hall referred to other letters Casement had written while he was in Germany and obtained by MI5. "They bear out the

attitude which he took when interrogated in London after his arrest," Hall recorded. The letters "laid stress on the fact that he had been 'let down' by the Germans and placed in the position of either refusing their offer, and so being branded by his friends in Ireland and America as a coward and a traitor ... or of going ahead".

Documents previously released by the PRO show Whitehall and the security services plotted to smear Casement by distributing his "black diaries" — describing his homosexual activities. Whitehall was concerned about a campaign for clemency by prominent figures, including

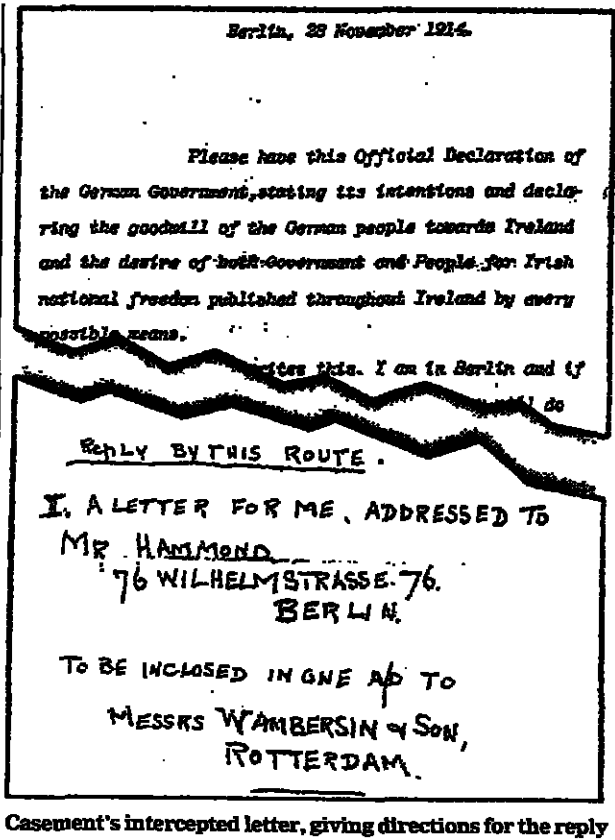
Arthur Conan Doyle, George Bernard Shaw, Joseph Conrad and T. E. Lawrence.

Casement was hanged in Pentonville prison on August 3, 1916. A debate still rages about whether the diaries were forgeries — a debate fuelled by the knowledge that one of those who circulated them was Admiral Reginald "Blinker" Hall, the head of naval intelligence. The admiral was later instrumental in leaking the Zinoviev letter — widely believed to be forged — to help bring down the Labour government in 1924.

Casement, a hero and martyr for Ireland, was hanged for exposing the exploitation and slaughter of Africans and South American Indians.

He was arrested on a beach in Co Kerry, three days before the 1916 Easter Rising, after landing in a boat which he had picked him up from a German submarine. A trawler accompanying the submarine and carrying 20,000 guns was scuttled after being intercepted.

The Casement documents were released after Lord Kilbracken, the Irish peer asked Lord Williams, the Home Office minister, why they were still being withheld. They were not due to be released until 2006.



Casement's intercepted letter, giving directions for the reply

Branson will be a knight, hints No 10

Anne Perkins
Political Correspondent

RICHARD Branson will probably get a knighthood "sooner rather than later" it emerged last night, after an extraordinary row over whether or not the Prime Minister had barred an award to the Virgin boss.

As it emerged that Wahed Ali, boss of Planet 24 Television and a self-made millionaire at 34, is likely to be made a life peer this week, Downing Street sources strongly denied that Mr Blair had blocked Mr Branson's honour. Saturday's Birthday Honours list included Mr Branson's greatest commercial rival, BA Chairman Sir Colin Marshall, who was awarded a peerage.

In an unusual breach of

protocol Downing Street sought to defuse the situation by indicating that Mr Branson was in line for future recognition.

A spokesman stressed that "even the strongest recommendations for honours take three or four honours lists". With honours lists published in the New Year and in June, that would mean an 18-month or two-year wait.

Mr Branson's office refused to comment. "Richard has no knowledge of being nominated for any honour," his spokesman Will Whitehorn said.

A life peerage for Mr Ali, who launched the Big Breakfast for Channel 4 and brought Chris Evans to national fame, is expected to be announced this week.

Mr Ali has been a staunch backer of Labour and serves



Richard Branson: 'no knowledge of nomination'

on Panel 2000, a group set up by Robin Cook to advise on a project to "rebrand" Britain. A supporter of Minister Without Portfolio Peter Mandelson, he makes Labour party

broadcasts without a fee. Melvyn Bragg, the Labour donor broadcaster who presents ITV's South Bank Show and Radio 4's Start The Week, is also expected to be made a life peer.

The fact that Mr Branson had been nominated was first leaked last autumn when, at the height of the row over Bernie Ecclestone and a ban on tobacco sponsorship for Formula 1 motor racing, it is claimed Labour sources sought to divert attention by revealing that the Tory leader William Hague had recommended Mr Ecclestone for a knighthood.

At the time, although largely unreported, it emerged that Mr Branson had also been on Mr Hague's list. "It was a list of industrialists and philanthropists," a Central Office source insisted

last night. "There were no political nominations on the list, because Mr Blair had made it clear he did not believe in political honours."

Mr Blair's press secretary, dismissing the affair as "a very silly game to play", said: "Just because William Hague nominates someone doesn't mean that person qualifies for an honour any more than if the Prime Minister does."

It seems the Tories were determined to retaliate after the leaking of Mr Ecclestone's name and yesterday were demanding to know who had stopped "the people's entrepreneur getting the people's honour".

It was being suggested that Mr Branson had annoyed Downing Street by criticising the Millennium Dome and attacking the U-turn on the tobacco sponsorship ban.

Staff 'sneak' hotline opens

Free telephone whistleblowing service seeks to root out rogues

Dan Atkinson

MORE than 100,000 workers across Britain are under the watchful eye, or rather ear, of a new kind of telephone call centre. Expolink's operators do not handle bank transactions or insurance claims. They listen to employees informing on one another.

Thieves, fraudsters, sexual predators and those engaging in unethical conduct of all kinds can be shopped by colleagues in absolute confidence. Expolink never passes on the names of informers to their bosses.

A range of organisations, from some of the biggest companies in Britain to local authorities, has signed up for Expolink's whistleblowing service, based at Upper Castle Combe, Chippenham, Wiltshire. But no NHS trust has signed up, despite recent scandals.

Expolink's managing director, David Crook, said the hotline — an 0800 free number — was an effective tool in the fight against employee fraud, thought to cost British industry about £12 billion a year. But he added that all reports were handed back to the client company, including those in which an

employee had reported office romance, personal opinions of colleagues and other matters that may be thought private.

The hotline operates 24 hours a day, 365 days a year. Most callers prefer to ring from home, he said, to prevent a company switchboard recording the extension from which a call was made. Expolink staff try to get callers to divulge their names, but never pass them on to their employer.

Staff are trained to spot malicious calls and to detect when callers are drunk or under the influence of drugs. And, with some calls, the "frank" being reported is less serious than imagined by the caller. One rang in to disclose that managers drank coffee all day.

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As political temperature rises, Opposition to vote against bill to release terrorists

Tories may end Commons deal on Ireland over weapons issue

John Mullin
Ireland Correspondent

THE Tories are ready to buck years of a bipartisan approach towards Northern Ireland this week by voting against the bill paving the way for the release of convicted terrorists.

They are angry that the Government has failed explicitly to link the decommissioning of paramilitary weapons with the accelerated release programme. They are tabling amendments but will vote against the bill's third reading on Thursday if the Government refuses to tighten its provisions.

The political temperature is rising ahead of next week's assembly elections. The hustings, lacklustre so far after last month's gruelling refer-

endum campaign, are poised to spark into life. The Parades Commission is expected today to rule that an Orange march be re-routed away from nationalist areas in north Belfast. It could spark a loyalist backlash and pre-election crisis.

There was more controversy over a report that Mo Mowlam, Northern Ireland Secretary, was ready to issue protection weapons to the private bodyguards of senior figures in Sinn Féin. According to another leak, Ms Mowlam has agreed "in principle" to do so.

She refuted the allegations last night. But it had already caused anger among Unionists and Conservatives.

Michael Howard, shadow foreign secretary, said on GMTV that the Conservatives supported the Good Friday Agreement. But they felt the

bill failed to secure the link that Tony Blair had promised.

"We think there should be links, as the Prime Minister said there would be, between decommissioning and the release of prisoners. That is why we are putting down amendments to secure that link and if those amendments are not accepted, then I think we will vote against this bill on third reading on Thursday."

"We cannot simply release all these prisoners to go back to the bomb and the gun and the bullets which they have used with such terrible effect in the past."

David Trimble, leader of the Ulster Unionists, was confident that Mr Blair would amend the legislation. He voted against the bill at its second reading last week, and was criticised for doing so.

More than 400 prisoners, serving a minimum of five years, will benefit from the scheme. Only two out of 462 life prisoners released on licence in Northern Ireland during The Troubles have been recalled to jail. Neither was for a violent offence.

Alistair Graham, chairman of the troubled Parades Commission, the body set up to rule on this year's contentious Orange marches, has indicated that this Friday's Tour of the North march will go ahead. But it is expected that he will rule it to be re-routed away from nationalist areas in the underbox area of north Belfast.

The march takes place every two years. Several Catholic families were burned out of their homes in 1996. Nationalists said that they would oppose any attempt to march in their area.

North Belfast, a patchwork of Protestant and Catholic communities, has a history of sectarian violence. One sixth of the 3,000 killings during the troubles have been there. The biggest fear is that hardliners from outside Belfast might become involved.

The Ulster Volunteer Force and the Ulster Defence Association, on ceasefire for four years, are linked to many of the loyalist bands which will be marching. They are expected to help police to quell potential trouble.

Although there are more than 3,000 Orange marches in Northern Ireland every year, only about 15 are contentious. Most take place within the next month, with the annual march at Drumcree, Portadown, on July 5 posing the most serious threat of violence.

Village hit by tornado which came from nowhere

Helen Carter

THE tornado came from nowhere and surged through a Berkshire housing estate in a scene that reminded one resident of The Wizard of Oz.

Yesterday villagers in Lower Earley were counting the cost of the storm, which struck at 6.15pm on Saturday and within seconds reduced brick walls to rubble, flattened fences and lifted garden furniture and toys into the air.

The tornado created a zig-zag path of rubble along a quarter mile stretch of Rushey Way. A motorist escaped injury when part of a fir tree which had been torn in two by the storm smashed through a passenger window of his car.

Ruth Wise, whose garden wall was flattened, said it was "like something you would see in The Wizard of Oz. It had started raining heavily just before 6pm, but then the sky suddenly went dark and a big sheet of rain came down which was so dense you couldn't see through it. The wind picked up and suddenly our garden hammock blew into the air in bits."

Her husband, Les, saw a 90ft brick wall linking five terraced houses collapse, and saw fence panels uprooted and thrown through the air. "It was very scary," he said. "It was as if someone had grabbed hold of both ends of the wall and twisted it. It just thudded down in a heap."

The fir tree of their next-door neighbour, Julie Pulham, was uprooted and the main road to the road, hitting the passing car. She was not at home, and was shocked to return to find her garden strewn with rubble and her children's toys scattered.

Another neighbour said the wind created a Mexican wave effect along roof tiles, lifting them and smashing them to the ground.

Nobody was hurt in the tornado, despite a shower of bricks and fence posts on the main road. At least 15 homes were affected.

Natalie Debourg, aged 15, was in her garden trying to save her rabbit, Lottie, when the storm was at its worst. The slide of her brother's car, aged 15, was lifted into the air and came spinning towards her. "I could see the trees being uprooted, and the



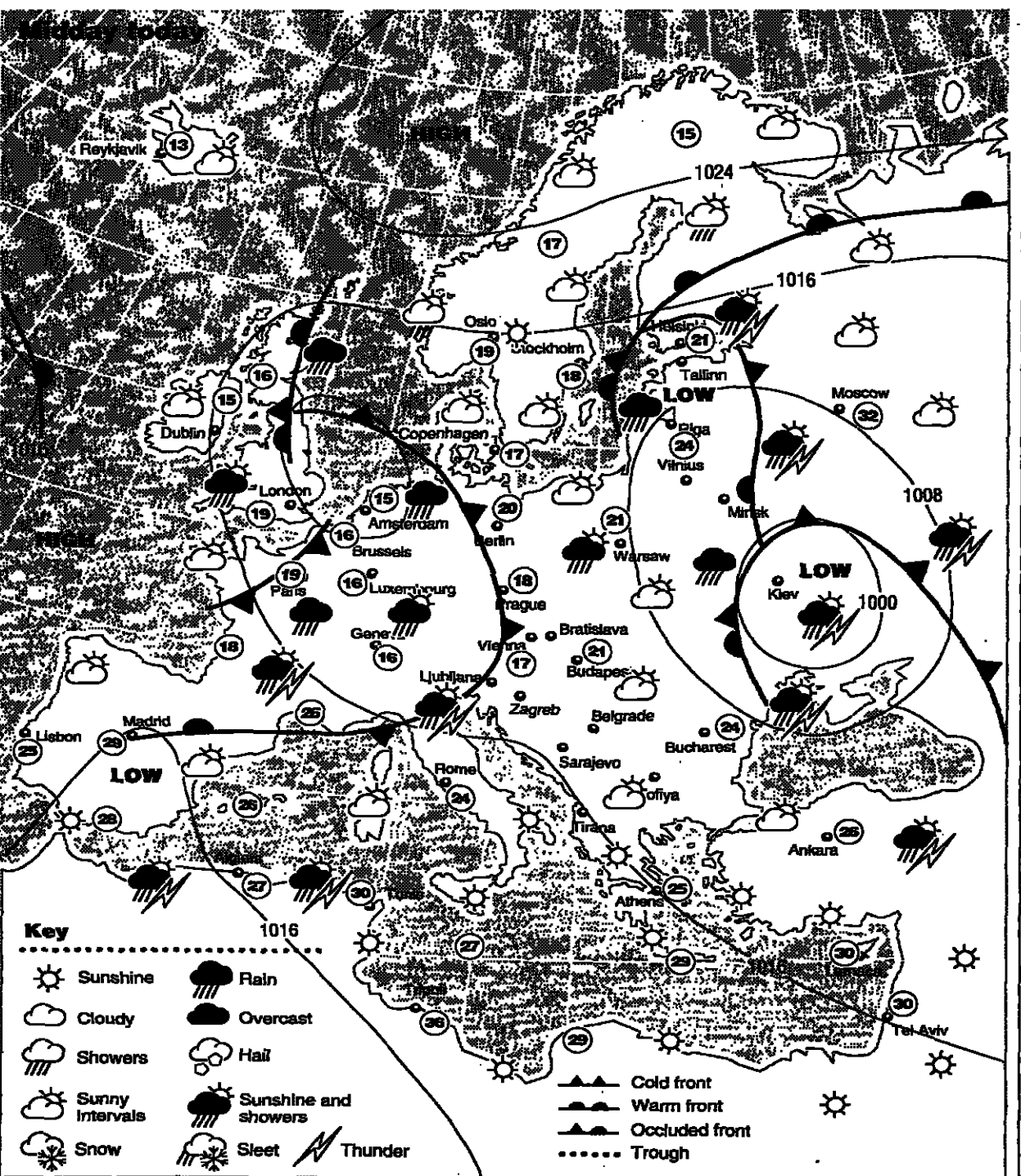
The wall demolished last night by the tornado in Lower Earley PHOTOGRAPH BY BRIAN HATTON

rain was falling so hard that it hurt my face," she said. "I had to get the rabbit out, and my brother and sister were screaming inside the house. Andre thought the rain started. I looked out of the window and saw trees bend in half and the fence disappear. It was a real freak of nature."

Glynn Falers, said his dog behaved oddly moments before the tornado hit his garden. "Barney lay in the front room and seemed really scared. Moments before the rain started, I looked out of the window and saw trees bend in half and the fence disappear. It was a real freak of nature."

His son, Adam, aged nine, screamed when the tornado hit his home, but within seconds it was all over. Firefighters removed dangerous roof tiles and put up temporary fencing. Thames Valley police said Rushey Way was blocked for a while by the fallen tree.

The weather in Europe



Forecast for the cities			
Today	Tomorrow	Wednesday	Thursday
Algeria 27 16 Th	London 19 11 F	Algeria 25 14 F	London 20 11 F
Amsterdam 20 11 F	Madrid 24 14 Th	Amsterdam 21 11 F	Madrid 25 14 F
Athens 28 20 S	Moscow 21 11 F	Athens 26 15 S	Moscow 22 11 F
Berlin 20 11 F	Nice 24 14 Th	Berlin 21 11 F	Nice 25 14 F
Bombay 28 20 S	Paris 20 11 F	Bombay 26 15 S	Paris 21 11 F
Buenos Aires 28 20 S	Prague 20 11 F	Buenos Aires 26 15 S	Prague 21 11 F
Calcutta 28 20 S	Rome 20 11 F	Calcutta 26 15 S	Rome 21 11 F
Cairo 28 20 S	Stockholm 17 8 S	Cairo 26 15 S	Stockholm 18 9 S
Geneva 20 11 F	Tunis 28 21 F	Geneva 21 11 F	Tunis 29 22 F
Hong Kong 28 20 S	Vienna 20 11 F	Hong Kong 26 15 S	Vienna 21 11 F
London 19 11 F	Warsaw 20 11 F	London 20 11 F	Warsaw 21 11 F
Lyons 20 11 F	Zagreb 20 11 F	Lyons 21 11 F	Zagreb 21 11 F

G, cloudy; Dr, drizzle; F, fair; Fg, fog; H, hail; R, rain; S, sleet; Sn, snow; S, sunny; Th, thunder. * (previous day's readings)



Reg Smythe: a classic cartoonist whose 'monster' comic character exposed human foibles

Andy Capp's creator dies but runty idler lives on

Martin Wainwright

ANDY Capp was on his last legs when he was 80. A late back from the pub, he was being nursed by his wife, who was 90 and 900 newspapers was finally laid to rest.

His creator, Reg Smythe, died on Saturday from cancer at the age of 81.

Working to the end (and more than a year's unpublished strips are in stock), Mr Smythe was part of the grand tradition of cartoonists with a single, brilliant idea that caught the public imagination. Unquestionably related to Bart and Homer Simpson, Capp is a monster, saved by endless wit, with the freedom to behave as badly as most of us can only dream of doing.

Would-be Andy Capps "are all over the place — the chap next door, the bloke in the pub", said Mr Smythe in a

rare interview, when the runty little man with the lightbulb nose swept the United States and starred in a musical as well as a television series.

Swiftly drawn with a few deft lines and cross-hatched flat cap, Capp went global from humble origins in the Manchester editions of the 1937 Daily Mirror.

Hugh Cudlipp, the newspaper's editorial director, envisaged a cosy and definitely local comic strip when he asked Mr Smythe, then a freelance cartoonist given just the occasional Mirror box, to create a "Northern Man". Nothing could have been more stereotypical than the hard-drinking idler in cap and muffer, inhabiting a world of whippets and cobbled streets.

Archae now, this vision was already out of date in the 1950s, but Mr Smythe always emphasised that his models had aspects of his parents (his

mother was named Flo) and reflected memories of Hartlepool in his 1920s childhood.

The image proved wildly popular both in the North, with its strong tradition of nostalgia for the past, and elsewhere, where Northern Man remains irretrievably associated with Worthington and B&B bums.

Capp occasionally came under fire from feminists, and even health campaigners who scored a hit five years ago — Andy's dangling tag suddenly went from his lower lip. "Too many kids read the cartoon," said Mr Smythe. "It was time he set a good example."

Mr Smythe died in Hartlepool, a place he never wanted to leave and where he lived with his wife Vera until her death last year. He worked three days a week for the Mirror. The paper's cartoon editor, Ken Lawson, called him "a one-off who will be sadly missed all over the world."

Tube walkout kicks off series of stoppages

Seamus Milne
Labour Editor

THE first direct industrial challenge to Labour Government policy kicked off last night when thousands of London Underground workers staged a two-day strike over the effects of plans to privatise part of the Tube network.

London Underground ad-

mitted that the walkout by Rail, Maritime & Transport union members — which coincides today with the third stoppage by Essex firefighters over job cuts and safety — was bound to bring chaos to Tube services, even though the majority of drivers belong to another union, Aslef.

The mainline rail network also faces disruption this week when 9,000 RMT maintenance

workers stage a four-day strike from Friday against Railtrack contractors over changes to pay and conditions.

Meanwhile, the broadcasting unions are on the point of calling more industrial action at the BBC, if the corporation's "final offer" at the conciliation service Acas today does not meet their concerns about jobs, salaries and conditions under the latest plan.

Television and radio

BBC 1
7.00am News, 7.30am News, 8.00am News, 8.30am News, 9.00am News, 9.30am News, 10.00am News, 10.30am News, 11.00am News, 11.30am News, 12.00pm News, 12.30pm News, 1.00pm News, 1.30pm News, 2.00pm News, 2.30pm News, 3.00pm News, 3.30pm News, 4.00pm News, 4.30pm News, 5.00pm News, 5.30pm News, 6.00pm News, 6.30pm News, 7.00pm News, 7.30pm News, 8.00pm News, 8.30pm News, 9.00pm News, 9.30pm News, 10.00pm News, 10.30pm News, 11.00pm News, 11.30pm News, 12.00am News, 12.30am News, 1.00am News, 1.30am News, 2.00am News, 2.30am News, 3.00am News, 3.30am News, 4.00am News, 4.30am News, 5.00am News, 5.30am News, 6.00am News, 6.30am News, 7.00am News, 7.30am News, 8.00am News, 8.30am News, 9.00am News, 9.30am News, 10.00pm News, 10.30pm News, 11.00pm News, 11.30pm News, 12.00am News, 12.30am News, 1.00am News, 1.30am News, 2.00am News, 2.30am News, 3.00am News, 3.30am News, 4.00am News, 4.30am News, 5.00am News, 5.30am News, 6.00am News, 6.30am News, 7.00am News, 7.30am News, 8.00am News, 8.30am 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Killjoys set to spoil fun for unlicensed lounge lizards

World Cup 98

Diary

THE nation was treated yesterday to its first glimpse of the World Cup killjoys. Leading the charge was the Television Licensing Authority — never a popular visitor when appearing out of nowhere on your doorstep. The authority is taking a stand guaranteed to prevent play flowing smoothly, by substantially increasing its detection teams during the tournament. The opportunity to trap offenders, it seems, is too good to miss.

It will not be the first time. During the Grand National, detection teams caught 1,500 licence dodgers. For France 98, they are targeting companies which try to do their stuff a favour by bringing in televisions for the games. Any firm which does not have a licence faces a fine of up to £1,000 as the authority tries to recoup some of the £160 million it loses through licence evasion each year.

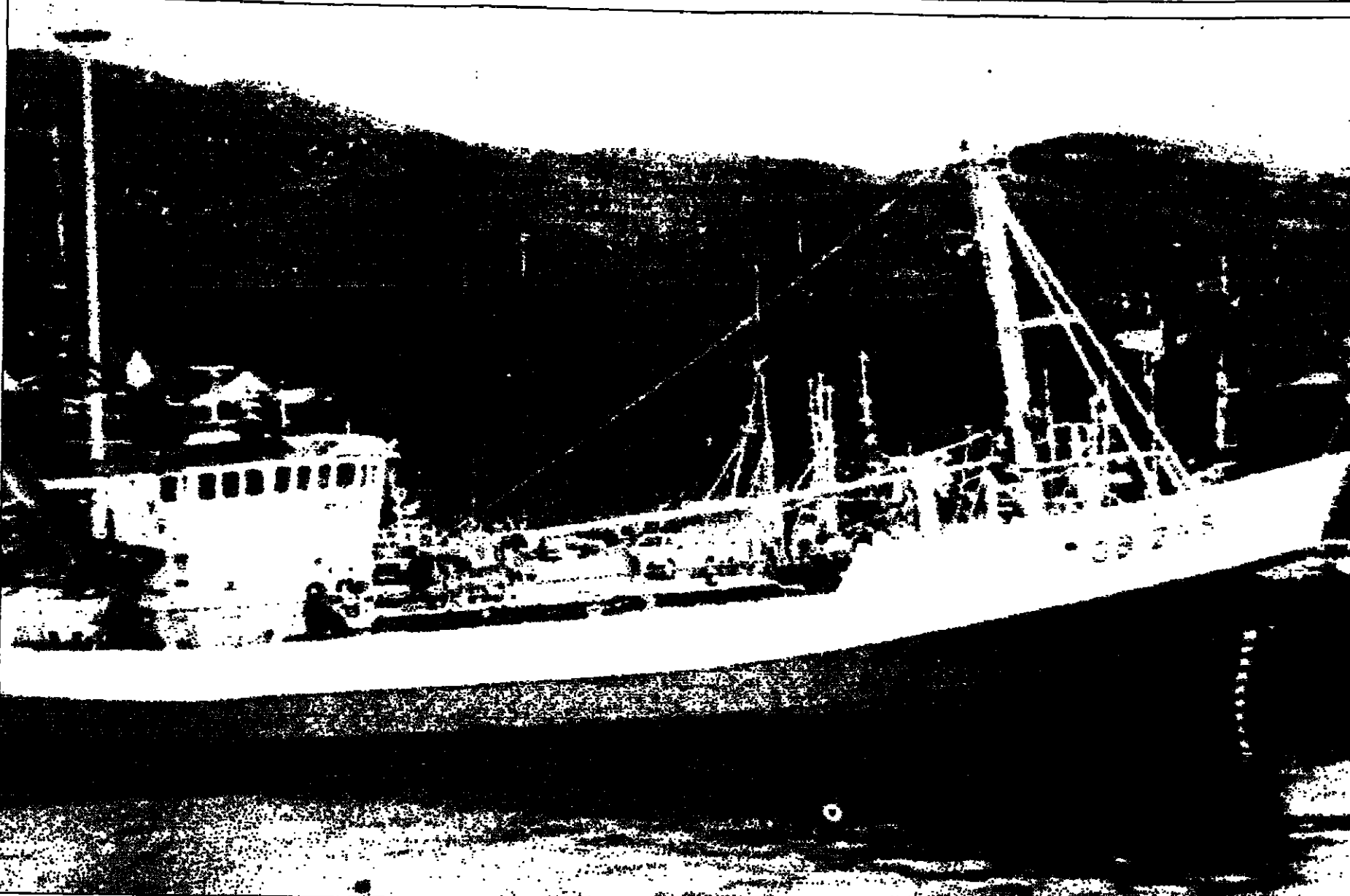
effort. Don't Come Home Too Soon, at 16.

AT THE Asda supermarket in Swansea, even those buying football records are bracing themselves for a slightly duller life than before. There, another killjoy has emerged, though this one is spoiling the fun of women so desperate to escape the World Cup that even grocery shopping seems a cheerier option. The supermarket had the Full Monty-esque idea of booking bodybuilder Steve James to flex his muscles at the checkouts during every England or Scotland match. Now he has been forced to withdraw. It seems Mrs James found out what he was up to.

FIT though he undoubtedly was, even Mr James would have been hard-pushed to match the exploits of James Rayment, 31, from Banbury, Oxfordshire. Determined to combine his love of exercise with his passion for football, he set out on May 31 for the World Cup by bicycle. Complete with trailer bedecked with the flag of St George, he travelled 88 miles a day from the Hook of Holland, through Belgium and Luxembourg, and into Germany. All too easy, so he decided to cycle through the Swiss Alps into Italy and back into France in time for England's opening match in Marseilles today. Does he have a ticket? Of course not.

JUST as fans are getting their heads around Mr Rayment's lung-busting dedication, there comes terrible news from a health and exercise expert. It appears that smoking, drinking alcohol and eating junk food — are you listening, Paul Gascoigne? — are not healthy pastimes. Neil Armstrong, of Exeter university, warns that too many fans will abandon exercise to spend hours in front of the television, stuffing their faces. He may be forgetting those unfortunate souls who will have to get up to answer the door to the TV licence men.

— Stuart Millar



The Silvery Sea which sank in the North Sea in broad daylight and in conditions described by the Danish Royal Navy as excellent

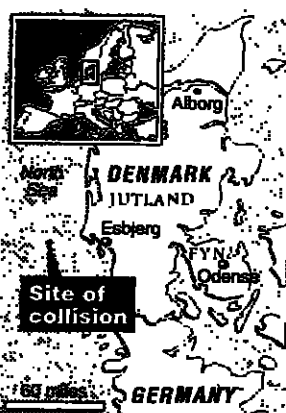
Five die in trawler collision

Fishing village in mourning after mystery accident with German coaster

Ruaridh Nicol

THE 1,900-strong West Highland community of Mallaig was last night trying to come to terms with the death of five fishermen whose trawler collided with a German coaster in the North Sea.

The Silvery Sea, a 125ft fishing boat, sank off the Danish coast yesterday, with all the crew, four from Mallaig and a fifth from Fraserburgh, Aberdeenshire, believed drowned.



coast yesterday, with all the crew, four from Mallaig and a fifth from Fraserburgh, Aberdeenshire, believed drowned.

"Our whole family has been absolutely shattered by this," said James Manson, 39, a cousin of the Silvery Sea's skipper, Alex "Zander" Manson. "Zander was a very popular figure in this village and his death will be greeted with dismay everywhere."

Visibility was good and the sea was calm at 7.15am when the captain of the 4,155 tonne Mekur, travelling between Hamburg in Germany and Gothenburg in Sweden, called the Danish maritime rescue.

He said there had been a collision and the Scottish boat had sunk immediately. The authorities already knew something was desperately wrong because they had picked up an emergency message sent by the Silvery Sea's satellite radio beacon.

Seven ships and two helicopters began searching the area, including the 334ft Mekur until it developed a leak and headed for Bremen.

By late afternoon the search was called off, the only results being an empty 12-man life raft and an uninflated rubber dinghy.

A spokesman for the Danish Maritime Rescue Coordination centre at Aarhus said: "No trace was found of the missing men."

But Mrs Woodward, a close friend of the Woodward family, said Mrs Jones "wanted to keep the fund in her own name". She added: "We didn't want [the Woodward] having to go with a begging bowl every time they needed money."

Louise Woodward, 20, is awaiting a decision on appeals lodged by her and the prosecution against her 271 days time-served sentence for the manslaughter of Matthew Esphen, for which she was originally convicted of second-degree murder. The Supreme Judicial Court in Massachusetts can quash the conviction, allow it to stand, or reimpose the original life sentence that was overturned by trial judge Hiller Zobel last year. The SJC has until mid-July to rule on the appeals.

'Money was God' for Woodward claims nanny's campaigner

Nick Hopkins

LOUISE Woodward's family came under fresh attack yesterday when a founding member of the campaign to help the nanny accused them of being obsessed with money.

Jean Jones was one of Woodward's staunchest supporters during last year's trial of Louise over the death of the baby, Matthew Esphen. She appeared regularly on news bulletins, here and abroad, but now says she became disillusioned with the "ungracious" Woodward because of the rows about the £270,000 public donation.

Mrs Jones, who helped set up the Louise Woodward and Family Defence Fund, said the nanny's mother, Susan, seemed to regard the cash as her own. To Mrs Woodward, "money became God", and justice was an irrelevance, said Mrs Jones.

It is the second time in recent weeks that the Woodward family have been targeted by those central to Louise's defence team. The nanny's lawyer, Elaine Whitfield Sharp, also cast doubt on the probity



Jean Jones: resigned from Louise's support team

of the fund last week. Her husband, Dan, said the Woodward family had forged a receipt to falsely claim £9,000 expenses. The accusation came shortly after Mrs Whitfield Sharp was dismissed from Woodward's legal team for indiscretions seen by the family as treacherous. Mrs Whitfield Sharp allegedly told a police officer she thought Louise had murdered eight-month-old Matthew Esphen, and in a

taped telephone conversation, she had referred to the girl as a "lying monster".

Mrs Woodward — according to Mrs Jones who left the trust fund shortly after it was set up last Christmas — seemed determined to control the money. She persuaded trustees that getting each cheque from the fund countersigned by Mrs Jones was cumbersome. In an interview with Sky News, Mrs Jones said Mrs Woodward was also unhappy that a lawyer was hired to run the fund. When the other trustees agreed to get rid of the lawyer, Mrs Jones decided to resign.

Mrs Jones said: "I'd gone in with a good name and a good reputation and I wanted to step out of it with my good name intact. She [Mrs Woodward] rode roughshod over everybody. She was the most ungracious person I have ever met in my life. She didn't have any thought for other people. No matter how much kindness people showed her, she just seemed to push them to one side."

The trustees, at an emergency meeting last week, dismissed allegations that the Woodward family had fiddled their

expense claims, and yesterday again defended the family. The Reverend Ken Davey, vicar of Elton, said that there was only £49,000 in the fund, and that the bulk of the money — more than £200,000 — had been spent on legal fees. "Every month I and the other four trustees vet all the Woodward's expense claims. I can assure you that very little money has gone to them."

But Sandra McCabe, a close friend of the Woodward family, said Mrs Jones "wanted to keep the fund in her own name". She added: "We didn't want [the Woodward] having to go with a begging bowl every time they needed money."

Louise Woodward, 20, is awaiting a decision on appeals lodged by her and the prosecution against her 271 days time-served sentence for the manslaughter of Matthew Esphen, for which she was originally convicted of second-degree murder. The Supreme Judicial Court in Massachusetts can quash the conviction, allow it to stand, or reimpose the original life sentence that was overturned by trial judge Hiller Zobel last year. The SJC has until mid-July to rule on the appeals.

Cardiff Summit

Familiar problems for changing faces

Martin Walker in Cardiff

OF ALL the 15 heads of government attending the European Union summit in Cardiff today, only Germany's veteran, Helmut Kohl, and the Belgian prime minister, Jean-Luc Dehaene, have experience of the British way with summits, being the last political survivors of the EU summit in Edinburgh in 1992.

The European Commission president Jacques Santer is another Edinburgh veteran, although back then he was prime minister of Luxembourg. But the figures who once loomed large over Europe, from Jacques Delors to Francois Mitterrand, Spain's Felipe Gonzalez and Italy's Giuliano Amato, have passed with John Major into political oblivion.

Only the dashing Spanish socialist Mr Gonzalez might return as a prime candidate to replace Mr Santer as the next head of the EU commission. But if Mr Gonzalez or the other political ghosts were to suddenly land today in another of the UK's Celtic capitals, he would find little changed.

That 1992 summit, nervously wondering if it could steel itself to act and stop Bosnia's agony, issued a firm statement condemning Serbia's Slobodan Milosevic which included Europe's firm demand: "The autonomy of Kosovo must be respected". They could dust that one off and issue it again.

Back in Edinburgh, one issue was the Danish referendum vote against the Maastricht treaty, an echo of last month's Danish referendum vote in favour of the Amsterdam treaty. The other issue was the EU budget, with the decision to fix it at no more than 1.27 per cent of the European combined GDP.

The budget is back on the agenda at Cardiff, as Germany insists it cannot pay the lion's share any longer, and wants to save £2 billion from its net payments to the EU. Being good



Gareth Howells of Carmarthen leads the Welsh national anthem before a protest march by farmers through Cardiff on the eve of the European summit

Europeans, the Germans do not call this a rebate but a "contributions cap".

The demos have changed. In Edinburgh it was 4,000 angry Scots fishermen, and then 1,500 former servicemen with banners telling the British government to "Save Our Scottish Battalions", backed by a coachload from Greece insisting that Europe refuses to recognise the independence of Macedonia. This time, the Welsh branch of Reclaim the Streets is holding a street party outside Cardiff Castle, and MEP Glenys Kinnock will address two counter-summit rallies, one to curb the arms trade and another to cancel Third World debt. There's a demonstration against genetic

engineering, another on nuclear pollution and a big animal rights rally at City Hall.

The protest to watch could be the green alliance, which is planning a bicycle blockade when the summit is due to close on Tuesday, as part of their planned car-free day. Despite British promises to "put the environment at the heart of our policies in Europe", Greenstar the record has been a disappointment.

The latest report by the official European Environmental Agency says that in the course of the 1990s, eight out of the 12 main environmental issues have deteriorated in Europe. They include climate change; the ozone layer; ozone smog;

waste; biodiversity; coastal and marine environment and soil quality.

The EEA said there has been some improvement, although not sustainable, in acidification, chemical pollution and urban environments. The one area where it claimed dramatic improvement was in the EU's ability to deal with big environmental accidents — which looks dubious after the Donana disaster in Spain.

Moreover, the EEA report says the EU is almost certain to miss the year 2000 greenhouse gas reduction target it set at the Kyoto global warming summit.

Leader comment, page 8

IMPOTENCE
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Oxford to expel students who fail to pay fee promptly
John Carvel
Education Editor
OXFORD university yesterday published plans for the fast-track expulsion of undergraduates who fail to pay the £1,000 tuition fee being introduced by the Government in the autumn.
The ruling Hebdomadal Council decreed that students should hand over the money before the seventh day of term in October. Those failing to respond to reminder notices without reasonable excuse will be hung out before Christmas and denied further access to the university until they discharge the debt.
The Government has said the £1,000 fee should not be a deterrent, because it will be paid only by parents who can afford it. They will be expected to reduce their maintenance contribution by a similar amount, and the student will recoup the loss through an "earnings-related" system.

Cardiff Summit
Familiar problems for changing faces
OF ALL the 15 heads of government attending the European Union summit in Cardiff today, only Germany's veteran, Helmut Kohl, and the Belgian prime minister, Jean-Luc Dehaene, have experience of the British way with summits, being the last political survivors of the EU summit in Edinburgh in 1992.

One Nation gains divide Australia

Christopher Zinn in Sydney

ABORIGINAL and ethnic groups warned yesterday that Pauline Hanson's One Nation Party, which recorded huge swings in the Queensland election, could set back race relations in Australia for decades. Economists predicted that the anti-immigration party, which also wants to return to trade protectionism, could damage the economy and drive away foreign investors.

The swing to the fledgling party, which captured more than 23 per cent of the first-preference votes under the state's transferable vote electoral system, could have implications for the timing of the next federal election and for federal government policies.

But the prime minister, John Howard, said that while it would be foolish to ignore its gains he would not change course on tax reform and native land title legislation opposed by Ms Hanson.

Many Australians were in

shock after the party, which boasts Ms Hanson as its sole federal MP and now has a possible 10 seats in the state parliament in Brisbane, became the third force in Australian politics overnight.

One Aboriginal activist, Ray Robinson of Atsic, said One Nation's rise meant that indigenous people and Asians might be treated as second-class citizens. Another, Les Malezer of Faira, said the result was a disaster which would scupper reconciliation between blacks and whites.

"The most disappointing thing is that the public have shown they're prepared to vote for a party which has at its core agenda attacks on Aboriginal and Asian people on the basis of race," he said.

A coalition of 45 ethnic groups said the result would send a message to the world that would hurt tourism, trade and investment.

Ms Hanson responded that although she was branded a racist, no one could point to any racist comment she had made. But she said many Asians were not prepared to assimilate, and that wide-

spread immigration made Australians feel like foreigners in their own country.

"All we ask, all Australians have ever asked, is to come out here, join us, be one of us, but give this country your undivided loyalty and be proud of the new life you have in this country," she said.

Analysis of Saturday's poll, which is still too close to call between the main coalition and Labour parties, showed that Queenslanders deserted the National and Liberal parties, which form the ruling coalition, in favour of rural-based One Nation candidates. These could hold the balance of power in the state.

The former National Party premier Sir Joh Bjelke-Petersen, whose old seat was taken by Ms Hanson's party, said: "What she has achieved is a wake-up call to politicians in Queensland and Australia as a whole. It will shake up politics as never before."

The Labour Party lost seats because, under the state's optional preferential voting system, the coalition had controversially directed its voters' preferences to One Nation.

But the Labour leader, Peter Beattie, put One Nation last on his how-to-vote cards, which benefited the coalition in key seats. "We held a principled and moral position. I am proud of what we did," he said. "The coalition sold its soul and it will pay a price."

Many federal backbenchers stand to lose their seats if the One Nation bandwagon continues to roll. If Mr Howard calls an early election, as he has threatened to do, One Nation could win three senate seats and others in the lower house.

An opinion poll published yesterday gave the party 9.5 per cent support nationally.

The roots of its success lie in regional areas which were once better off and now feel abandoned. The crackdown on gun ownership after the Tasmanian massacre also caused discontent.

"One Nation stands for people who want to get up and have a go," Ms Hanson said after the victory. "We're also there for people who are the backbone of this country, the battlers out there who haven't been given a fair go."



Pauline Hanson, whose One Nation took votes from the two main parties, at home yesterday. PHOTOGRAPH: ANDREW MEARES

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The Guardian

The Observer

Premier Newspapers

Mandela's 'praise poet' in jail protest

David Beresford in Cape Town on the shaky case against a Soweto legend awaiting trial for bank robbery

THE lines do not have quite the resonance of Oscar Wilde's from behind the bars of Reading Gaol. But the indignation is inescapable in these words from Pretoria Central prison by South Africa's most famous poet, Mzwakhe Mbuli:

*My underpants pulled down
My private parts exposed
Is this the new South Africa
I am vulgar proof.*

After his eight months behind bars, the case of the jailed poet is the latest cause célèbre in a state of juridical confusion which is fast reducing the administration of law and order in South Africa to absurdity.

It was in October that the country was startled by the arrest on charges of bank robbery of the Soweto-born "People's Poet" — likely to be remembered by the global television audiences who watched the 1994 presidential inauguration as Nelson Mandela's "praise singer".

The police arrested Mbuli shortly after a bank robbery at a shopping centre outside Pretoria. He was said to be in possession of 15,000 rands (nearly £2,000) and various weapons, including pistols and a hand-grenade.

Further investigations allegedly tied him to other armed robberies, including one on a liquor store, whose owner picked him out at an identity parade.

After the arrest the police minister in the African National Congress-controlled provincial government, Jessie Duarte, issued a rare public tribute to the police for their "quick response" to the bank robbery. "The law must take its course," she said.

Now Ms Duarte is leading the demands for a re-assessment of the case, and has persuaded the police watchdog, the Independent Complaints Directorate, to investigate. A string of problems have arisen with the case against Mbuli. The surveillance camera in the bank happened to be switched off at the time of the robbery.

None of the other staff at the liquor store was able to identify Mbuli, and a witness has come forward who claims he heard the police telling the owner what the poet looked like before the identity parade.

Three of Mbuli's alleged accomplices in another robbery turned out to have watertight alibis — they were in prison when the crime was committed.

By Mbuli's own account, he was in Swaziland to take part in an anti-drugs concert when he was approached by local officials with information about South African police involvement in drug dealing and arms smuggling.

The officials assumed Mbuli's status as Mr Mandela's praise singer would give him access to the presidency. Mbuli had been trying to get

to the presidency — meeting, among others, a representative of national intelligence — when he was arrested.

He claims that he was lured into a trap by a stranger who telephoned him with an offer of information on a past attempt to assassinate him. When he turned up at the rendezvous, Mbuli says, the contact pushed an envelope into his hand and told him to drive off quickly. Shortly afterwards he was arrested.

The case of Robert McBride, arrested by Mozambican police on gun-running charges, has already led to the premature retirement of the commander of the South African national defence force, General Georg Meiring, because of the circulation of a fabricated intelligence report claiming that there was a vast conspiracy by disaffected ANC members to overthrow Mr Mandela's government.

Last week another controversy blew up, this time about a similar document fed by the police to parliament.

It claimed that a mysterious force called "MKAPLA" — made up of former members of the ANC's military wing, Umkhonto we Sizwe, and the Pan Africanist Congress's Azanian People's Liberation Army — was behind the theft of large quantities of weapons from armouries in the Bloemfontein area.

Shortly after the release of the document it transpired that a group of rightwingers had been arrested.



Mzwakhe Mbuli: Veteran of detention under apartheid who once again finds himself a cause célèbre

It is this confusion of responsibility that is prompting people to ask whether there is a conspiracy by "Old Guard" officials and security force personnel to destabilise the criminal justice system — and whether the likes of the South African poet laureate are its victims.

Mbuli, a hero of the anti-apartheid movement, performed his poems at political rallies and funerals in the 1980s, filling stadiums with a combination of resistance poetry and township *mbaqanga* music.

His harassment by the apartheid regime led to his being detained eight times, including a six-month spell in solitary confinement in 1988.

Unbroken Spirit, the album of poems he recorded after that spell in solitary, sold more than a million copies, despite being banned.

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Arafat 'offer' to Hamas spurned

David Sharrock in Jerusalem

THE militant Islamist party Hamas, which violently opposes the Middle East peace process, said yesterday that it had turned down an invitation from Yasser Arafat to join his cabinet.

But it said it would meet him in Gaza tomorrow, the day on which its spiritual leader, Sheikh Ahmed Yassin, is expected back from a three-month tour of Arab countries.

Sheikh Yassin has been gathering support for his opposition to the moribund Palestinian-Israeli interim peace agreement reached in Oslo in 1993.

Aides close to Mr Arafat denied that Hamas had been offered cabinet posts, saying the invitation was to review the present situation.

Hamas, which has rejected previous offers to join the Palestinian Authority, boycotted the Palestinian elections in 1996. Its military arm has made several devastating suicide attacks on Israeli targets.

A Hamas official, Abu Shanab, said he welcomed the talks with Mr Arafat. "I consider it as a positive initiative from the authority to consult with the opposition."

But he added: "The position in Hamas is not to participate in any government or parliament as long as the current situation is tied and controlled by the restrictions of Oslo and other agreements which have not fulfilled the ambitions to liberate all of Palestine."

Last week Mr Arafat agreed

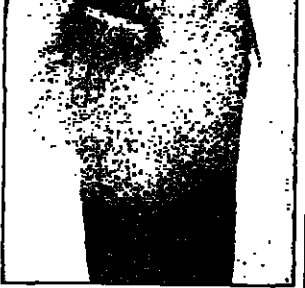
at a meeting of the Palestine Liberation Organisation executive committee to reshuffle his cabinet, which exercises self-rule powers in the Gaza Strip and parts of the West Bank.

The Palestinian legislative council gave Mr Arafat until today to reform his administration, accused of corruption and misrule, or face a no-confidence vote. Mr Arafat asked it to delay the vote for 10 days

while he opened broad talks on a new cabinet.

Earlier this week a senior PLO official said all Palestinian political groups, including Hamas, would be consulted.

The attempted rapprochement with Hamas could signal an attempt by Mr Arafat to neutralise the growing challenge to his authority by Sheikh Yassin, who was freed from an Israeli jail last year in exchange for the



Cleric with the Midas touch
He has secured tens of millions of pounds and raised his profile throughout the region. In Saudi Arabia he was treated like visiting royalty, so incensing Yasser Arafat that he refused to meet him when he was in the kingdom.

Such is the apparent success of the tour, leading Israeli politicians have renewed their criticism of Benjamin Netanyahu for authorising the bungled Mossad operation in Jordan which led to the cleric's release from an Israeli jail. His warm reception may reflect the domestic political agenda of the region rather than a shift away from Mr Arafat. Countries such as Saudi Arabia have their own hardliners to contain.

Egypt and Jordan, the only Arab countries with peace agreements with Israel, refused him a visa. The Egyptians are worried that should Israel refuse to let him return, he might establish a base in exile in Cairo.

release of two Mossad agents captured in Jordan.

But it may be no more than another sign of how much he has been weakened by the collapse of the peace talks, frozen in March last year when Israel began building the controversial Jewish settlement Har Homa near Jerusalem.

A reconciliation with Hamas would complicate Mr Arafat's dealings with Israel and the United States, which have been pressing him to crack down on militant groups to help restart the peace process.

Mr Arafat is in a bind, because the Palestinian electorate's support for Hamas among has risen as the peace crisis has deepened.

Relations between the Palestinian Authority and Hamas have been badly strained since Muhi al-Din Shariif, the chief bombmaker of Hamas' military wing, died in a car explosion in March.

The authority blamed his death on a power struggle in the movement and Mr Arafat's police arrested many Hamas members.

At the weekend about 100 local Hamas leaders staged a sit-in demanding the release of a party spokesman, Abdel Aziz Rantisi, who was jailed in April when he criticised Mr Arafat's government.

He was charged with endangering national security. The Palestine supreme court said last week that he should be released for lack of evidence, but the Palestinian security forces usually ignore such rulings unless the release is authorised by Mr Arafat.



Margalit Har-Shefi in court yesterday before she was found guilty of failing to prevent the assassination of Yitzhak Rabin by her friend Yigal Amir. PHOTOGRAPH: HAVARUK LEVISON

Friend of Rabin's assassin guilty

A FRIEND of the man who murdered the Israeli prime minister Yitzhak Rabin was found guilty by an Israeli court yesterday of failing to prevent the 1995 assassination, writes David Sharrock in Jerusalem.

Judge Nira Lidski said that Margalit Har-Shefi, aged 23, knew that Yigal Amir had been stalking Rabin for months, determined to kill him to prevent parts of the West Bank being handed to the Palestinians.

She will pass sentence on September 15. The charge carries a maximum two-year jail term.

Rabin's widow, Leah, welcomed the verdict, saying the conviction was "one small beam of light that not everything is lost in our world".

Reading from her 110-page decision, the judge said: "Only one conclusion can be made from all the evidence, and that is that the defendant knew Yigal Amir was planning to commit a crime, that is to say, to murder the prime minister."

She said Amir had told Har-Shefi about two occasions on which he failed to kill Rabin, and dismissed Har-Shefi's main defence - that Amir appeared to be "all talk and no action".

"She took Amir seriously and did not view him as a liar or a fantasist."

Har-Shefi was found not guilty of telling Amir about an armoury in her West Bank settlement, Beit El, and a chemist who could help him prepare explosives.

Amir is serving a life sentence for killing Rabin.

Closing arguments for a world criminal court

As delegates meet to finalise a treaty to set up an international tribunal, Ian Black reports on hostility to the body that would punish the worst crimes against humanity

NEGOTIATIONS on the creation of a permanent international criminal court that could try a future Pol Pot or Saddam Hussein enter their crucial last lap today dogged by fears that the body might be too independent.

Kofi Annan, the United Nations secretary-general, will greet ministers and diplomats from more than 100 member countries of as they gather in Rome to finalise the treaty setting up a court (the ICC) to ensure that perpetrators of genocide and crimes against humanity are punished.

If the negotiations, due to last five weeks, are successful, they will create a court that fills the gap between the principles of the Universal Declaration Of Human Rights and an international justice system which has never had enough teeth to be effective.

But there has been increasing concern that the ICC may be weakened, or even neutralised, by government reservations. Crucially, China, Russia and the United States all oppose the establishment of an independent prosecutor able to open criminal investigations based on information from victims or their families.

"I think it's going to be an intense and hard-fought conference," Richard Dicker, of

Human Rights Watch in New York predicted.

Pierre Sané, secretary-general of Amnesty International, said: "A minority of governments who publicly support an international criminal court are shamefully blocking the creation of a court which could prevent another Bosnia or Cambodia."

Washington insists that the UN Security Council must give its consent before the ICC can start a case on a subject in which the council is involved.

Britain alone of the five permanent council members backs a compromise under which the council would have to take positive action if it wanted to block a case. It also wants the prosecutor to submit his evaluation of a case to a pre-trial chamber, to assure accountability and avoid frivolous or politically motivated prosecutions.

Robin Cook, the Foreign Secretary, said yesterday: "Some states are suspicious of any project that appears to detract from their sovereignty. Others claim the court would just be another stick in the armoury of the big powers. So there will be voices... seeking to weaken its powers or use it to undercut the crucial role of the security council. We will oppose those voices."

The ICC will not be a substitute for national courts and will only be able to act if national courts will not do so. But lobbyists insist that it, not states, must be able to decide when national courts are unwilling to bring criminals to justice, and that states must agree to comply fully with the court's orders.

They point out that if states can block prosecutions, Serbian agreement would be needed to indict Serbian military personnel in Kosovo and Khmer Rouge consent would have been required to try Pol Pot.

US officials have made it clear that they will take a tough line. "We cannot seek to create in Rome a dream factory of international criminal law," David Scheffer, the US envoy ambassador for war crimes issues, said.

In Washington, where the Pentagon has lobbied hard against the ICC, a coalition of conservative groups has announced a campaign to fight the court.

Some developing countries, such as India and Iran, appear to be working to weaken the court, arguing that it will be an expression of Western values and double standards. Proposals for setting up a permanent ICC came and went during the cold war, and it was only in the early 1990s, with the break-up of Yugoslavia and the genocide in Rwanda, that it became a matter of urgency. The ad hoc tribunals for those conflicts are under-funded and over-worked and have made few convictions.

News in brief

War evacuees drown

About 200 people who were fleeing fighting in Guinea-Bissau drowned as they tried to reach the Bijagos Islands off the coast of the West African state, the Portuguese news agency Lusa said yesterday.

It said more than 2,000 evacuees arrived at the Senegalese capital, Dakar, at the weekend. — Reuters.

Attack on Gadhafi

A Libyan Islamic opposition group claimed responsibility for an alleged attack on the Libyan leader Muammar Gadhafi.

Swiss guilt doubts

Simon Wiesenthal distanced himself from a report by the Los Angeles Wiesenthal centre which indicts neutral Switzerland as a land of Nazi sympathisers in the second world war. The Nazi-hunter said the report generalised too much. — Reuters.

Cyclone toll rises

Indian rescue workers found 97 bodies yesterday on an island off the western coast, raising to 931 the death toll in

the cyclone that hit Gujarat state last week. Aid workers say hundreds of people were swept away when a tidal wave struck the area. — AP.

Police crackdown

The Malaysian opposition leader Lim Kit Sang said yesterday that riot police broke up his party's third public meeting in two weeks in the latest sign of a crackdown on civil liberties. Democratic Action Party leaders were prevented from addressing a meeting in Lukut town in central Malaysia. — Reuters.

Iran backlash

A group of Iranian journalists have cancelled a trip to the United States, apparently for fear of angering hardliners in the ruling clergy, Farida newspaper reported yesterday. It said the eight had been granted an interview with the US secretary of state, Madeleine Albright. — AP.

Chechen oil threat

The Chechen prime minister, Shamil Basayev, threatened to close the Chechen section of a pipeline carrying oil from Baku on the Caspian Sea to Russia's Black Sea port of Novorossiysk yesterday, writes Tom Whitehouse in Moscow. He wants Russia to fulfil its promises to help finance the region's reconstruction.

society

Every Wednesday in the

The Guardian

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Comment

e-mail

Alex Duval Smith
@ Lagos

QUESTION: How many Nigerians can you fit around a 14-inch black and white television, balanced on a table over an open sewer? Answer: Fifty — and almost twice that number after Sunday Oliseh made it 3-2 against Spain on Saturday.

Suddenly Nigeria was great again, never mind Abacha or Abubakar and sojas like them. Or the *Killongo* (kill and go) police whose brutality besets and belittles Africa's most populous nation. Thanks to the Super Eagles, the stinking street in Obalende district was more alive than its own sewers.

Kayode, whose television repair shack had treated us to more intense football than a British pub with a big screen, threw his hands in the air and just screamed.

Even the boy in the adjoining shack, who had spent the entire match feeding bits of plastic upholstery through a sewing machine he was peddling, emerged for a moment and smiled.

"Up The Eagles" chanted a crowd waving a Nigerian flag and growing as it soared down the street.

Within minutes of the final whistle, it was larger and more passionate than the pro-democracy rally which on Friday had been intimidated out of action by the *tsargas* of the *Killongos*. As the only visible *olighe* (white person), I seemed, at a stroke, to have come to personify Spain, the rest of Group D, the Commonwealth and international sanctions, all rolled into one. "You see, we did it. Nigeria is going to win the World Cup." I was instructed.

Amid an ongoing fuel crisis and speculation about the intentions of the new military leader, General Abdulsalam Abubakar, it was just great to be great again.

BUT there had been a moment of uncertainty. With sponsorship from Cadbury's Bourneville, DBN Television had bought 90 minutes of what appeared to be French pictures and captions, with a Portuguese commentary, beamed from Angola.

As soon as the match went into injury time, our screen went blank. Had another dictator died? Kayode scrambled for a working radio and there were immediate rumours that Spain had equalised.

Then we heard the magic words of the Ray Power FM commentator: "Yes! It's all over!"

Kayode, now hoarse, mused about the euphoric state of this nation — dancing in streets while officially observing 30 days' mourning for General Sani Abacha, who died a week ago.

"The victory is all the sweeter because Abacha had turned the Eagles into his own team and he wanted their glory to reflect on him. Some people were even praying that we would do badly in France. Now we can win for all Nigerians," he said.

(The Condition of) EN-GER-LAND!



Education means good teachers, not just fixing smelly lavatories

Ian Aitken



DURING my schooldays at a progressive school in North London before the war, a very important element in the education on offer was fresh air. This was probably intentional, and most of us prospered on what others might have regarded as a rather spartan regime. But if so, it was just as well, because the classrooms were old first world war army huts which delivered fresh air in abundance, whether we wanted it or not.

The school's healthy lifestyle meant that whenever nature called us we had to sprint through the wind, rain and even snow to get to a central toilet block. This character-forming experience was repeated when I got to my ancient university just after the war, where I found that I had to descend three flights of rickety stairs and then enter across two quadrangles just to get a pee.

Both these seats of learning were, of course, profoundly privileged institutions. Indeed, it is arguable that the more privileged the institution the more spartan the regime. I mention this because we are once again witnessing a great display of public outrage over the alleged crumbling condition of many of our state-funded schools. Leaky roofs, smelly lavatories, broken windows — yes, even having to go out into the rain to reach a toilet — are all said to be holding back the essential process of turning our youngsters into efficient work units fit to be employed by modern, competitive, export-oriented companies.

Hence the new twist in Chancellor Brown's reform of

the nation's accountability. As he announced last week, there will be no more borrowing to fund day-to-day expenditure. But borrowing will be allowed to finance investment in (among other things) school buildings and perhaps even houses and hospitals. We are invited to rejoice at this most return to common sense by our Labour Government, after the years of Thatcherite madness when public investment was treated as far worse than adultery.

I beg to differ. The essential element in the education of our children is not the state of the school's roof, or even the existence of indoor lavatories; it is the quality and number of the teachers. But the key factor which is undermining state education is the low morale of the teaching profession. And the crucial element in this low morale is low pay. This seems to me to be so obvious that it is hard to understand why Gordon Brown, the man with probably the biggest brain in the cabinet, doesn't grasp it. There is nothing wrong with his reasoning about the importance of public investment, even if the priority it should get from any Labour government worth the name. But education as a whole is investment, as the political cliché-mongers never cease to tell us, and investment in education includes the teachers, even before the bricks and mortar.

So if the government is really serious about "education, education, education", then the real priority is a hefty pay rise for the teachers, not just to boost their morale but also to attract more people into the profession. And if that

means borrowing to finance current expenditure... well, jolly well get on and borrow it.

Much the same reasoning applies to nurses and hospital buildings. No doubt good old Dobbo, our toby jug health secretary, will be delighted to get on with his hospital building programme, even at the cost of closing some older establishments. But what is the use of erecting a new generation of spanking new hospitals if the carers who run them are quitting in droves, and cannot be replaced at the wages on offer? If the Treasury's accountancy system can't cope with this elementary truth, it is time the system was amended even more radically than it was last week.

Of course, that may after all turn out to be exactly what our hair-shirted Chancellor is really planning to do. Just such a message was being peddled to selected leftish-inclined commentators at the weekend, and at least one of them swallowed it whole. According to him, all that stuff about privatising the Royal Mint and the air traffic control system is really just a smokescreen, designed to make us think Mr Gordon is a Thatcherite when deepdown he is really an undercover socialist bent on doing good works by stealth.

Well, maybe. But I can't help thinking it is an odd way to go about the business of being our first socialist chancellor for two decades. True, Harold Macmillan pursued a similar strategy in the late 50s and early 60s, conning his party into believing he was a rightwing premier when he was really a

tearaway Keynesian interventionist. But he was a Tory trying to fool Tories that he was a Tory. Why would a socialist want to fool other socialists into thinking he's a Thatcherite?

My own suspicion is that this is a case of Labour's spin doctors, taking their skills a stage further than mere straightforward spin. What they are trying to do is deliver an off-break while making us think it is a leg-break — the classic definition of a googly. Indeed, it is even more complicated than that, for they want half of us to think it's an off-break and the other to think it's a leg-break. Not even Shane Warne can do that.

Unlike a cricket match, however, it will be a while before we find out whether Mr Brown's statement last week was spinning right or spinning left. The danger, however, is that long before then we will discover that the answer is entirely irrelevant. If events in Japan and South East Asia take a turn for the worse, we won't be worrying about the PSBR so much as the unemployment count.

How paradoxical then, that New Labour seems to have surrendered to the logic of raw capitalism just as capitalism seems to be plunging towards the kind of crisis which socialists always said it would generate. Time, perhaps for Chancellor Brown to dust down his copy of Keynes's General Theory. Indeed, if he lets me know, I'll even send him a copy of Das Kapital — under plain cover, of course.

Polly Toynbee returns on Wednesday

Bazza fodder

Peter Preston



I'VE always felt a little proprietorial about Barry Norman. When he fell out with the Daily Mail, almost three decades ago, we sat him on a Guardian column. And then, after a sparky, witty while, he was gone — to something new and tentative called Film 72. Now he is going again, (as he is made a CBE this weekend) to the great cheque-writer in the Sky.

You might suppose, with 25 years to prepare, that the BBC would have their successor movie show and Bazza replacement all lined up; but seemingly not. Various blondes are reported on crash video courses.

Nobody in the early 70s reckoned film had much of a future. Cinemas were closing, box office counts slipping inexorably. Television itself was the medium on the march. It made modest sense, then, to keep the coverage cool and regular and serious enough not to cause too much excitement.

The Norman Years were just that, the service years. You got One Man's Judgment (pitifully and pretty reliably delivered) plus a few lists, the occasional interview and reports from far-flung sets on shootings in progress. A formulaic, gently addictive way to spend 30 minutes a week.

But the years have moved on to bewildering effect. The power of TV is in retreat, fractured and wearied by technological expansion. The old moments when, because everybody watched the same thing last night, everybody talked about a common experience next morning, have disappeared. The force has gone, while the cinema is reborn. Indeed, without the cinema, television would never fill its allotted spans. You'll find some 45 or so films waiting for you in the living room over the next 24 hours.

There's precious little sense of that from the traditional box sources. Barry Norman's format seems virtually unchanged. The rivals around from time to time — on BBC2 and Channel 4 — are hotter on Yoof, as in Johnny Vaughan from the Big Breakfast interviews some early-30-somethings about what they like this week. That's a vital corrective, of course. No other art form in the world would set its output up for routine scrutiny by a critics' circle 30 or so years older than the average audience. Bizarre dislocation. But it still isn't enough. The focus is still too stale and narrow. What's opening on Friday? Where's the standard clip from the action? So, what did you think?

THE other day I heard Michael Jackson, the new boss of CA, talking about the things television doesn't cover: in this case the wife who got her husband back from Anthea Turner. The newspapers were full of it, the pubs and the coffee bars buzzed with yack about it, but TV — for the most part — tip-toed by on the other side of the street. A tale too incestuous for the regulated medium of the screen. A topic too incestuous for the regulated medium of the screen. A topic too incestuous for the regulated medium of the screen.

Not as Jackson says, why not? If Channel 4 must run Welsh for Llandudno in the name of the regulated minority game, if the BBC has regional obligations written all over its charter, why can't television find a way of reporting mass obsessions as part of the mix? I don't want to advocate tabloid TV; but there's something rum about a world where the flings of television stars fill acres of newspaper — a diet of worms and Rupert — but pass without mention on the stations that made them stars in the first place.

That is one way in which television hasn't re-thought what it can do. Movie coverage, in just the same sense, is another. There was the predictable Murdoch-sniping when Norman announced his change of side. Sixty-four-year-old supreme wrinkly pockets £350,000 a year. Nice work if you can get it. But, in fact, the move is innovative and logical. BSkyB has three channels of Bazza fodder churning every day. Who better to talk about Sky Gold than the golden oldie of 11,000 nights at the movies? Impeccable logic. The idea is to project and illumine the endless menu. It's a good idea.

Will the BBC be similarly bright in return? The ritual hunt for a suitable blonde raises few hopes. Yet what ought to be done is obvious from every conversation you have. In 1972 there wasn't a school or university subject called media studies. Now — in their tens of thousands — media students stalk the earth and shift the perspective of everyone they talk to.

Exploring movies in Film World '98 isn't like Which? testing washing machines. It is the beginning of myriad (and not at all cerebral) discussion. What do you think of Sliding Doors? Or of Martha — Meet Frank, Daniel and Laurence? Are they the natural heirs of Four Weddings, positive proof that the British film industry and the British sense of high comedy are taking Hollywood by storm again? (I've been reading the cover story in this month's Tatler). Or are they both limp and creaky and signally short on laughs?

And what is it about young British actors? Take Rufus Sewell, Joseph Fiennes, Tom Hollander, John Lynch and John Hannah from both of the above. Does any of them possess an ounce of charm? Cheekbones, yes; charisma,

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Endpiece: Culture vultures

Roy Hattersley



UNTIL I read last week's report of the House of Commons Culture, Media and Sport Committee, I intended to write today's Endpiece in praise of Chris Smith. The act of valour for which he was to receive that unusual accolade was his complaint to the European Commission that much of Sky Television's output falls below the quality standard which Brussels demands. He added that Sky had not "reserved a majority of its broadcasting time for European works" — another obligation imposed by European Union directives. Nobody who possesses one of those menacing black dishes can be sur-

prised by Smith's litany of failure. Between Sky Sports 1, 2 and 3 lurk a variety of strangely named channels which seem to broadcast nothing but old American films interspersed with old American situation comedies.

So I did not intend to congratulate Smith on his perception. It is his courage which wins him the laurel wreath. These days, it is a brave cabinet minister who takes on Rupert Murdoch. But, since his act of unusual heroism, the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport has been savaged by what is colloquially called his department's "parliamentary watchdog". Naturally enough some newspaper columnists waited for the smell of blood before they fearlessly joined in the attack. I suspect that few of them read more than the report's "summary of conclusions and recommendations". I think they should be told.

Anyone who goes through the complete document, must (like me) develop the suspicion that the whole thing was a hoax played on gullible parliamentary journalists. I quote Gerald Kaufman, chairman of the committee, as evi-

dence that the report was written to give us a good laugh. When Smith dissociated himself from the silly phrase "Cool Britannia", Kaufman replied: "It is also the least edible of the Ben and Jerry ice creams." Mrs Lin Golding MP complained that early Sinatra films were not in the archives of film museums. Kaufman told her that "The Kissing Bandit was one of the most gruesome films that Sinatra ever made." And you thought the committee existed to hold ministers to account.

THE committee which accused Smith of spending too much time on trivia then moved on to what it regarded as important. Before the election they had complained that "Heritage" made what David Mellor called "the ministry of fun seem backward-looking. But Kaufman and Co were not satisfied with Culture and all that. They formally recommended a new name "which combines euphony with a more comprehensive description of responsibilities". GK Chesterton wrote a satirical poem about the Khyber Pass

anxiously awaiting the latest news from parliament. The Potholes must be really desperate to broadcast the change of departmental name. They may be even more apprehensive about an issue which was raised by Michael Fabricant MP. "When one looks at the letter heading of the department, it bears an uncanny resemblance to the good old Department of Heritage except that there are different words going round the crest." Remember, the committee denounced triviality.

In fairness, it must be said that for a time Kaufman's committee gave a fair imitation of interest in serious issues. Recommendation three urged Tony Banks, the Minister for Sport, to forge closer links with the Department of Education and Employment. When he gets really close, he might suggest that a schools inspector (primary division) offers some advice on plain English to whoever wrote last week's report. The author clearly believed that images are a sign of literary distinction. So as well as a couple of howlers — not boxing your weight is quite different from not punching

your weight — there were several candidates for entry in Pseudo's Corner. These days we all believe in performance indicators — measurements of ministry results. According to the Culture committee "the search for measurable outputs in government seems akin to the search for the Holy Grail".

TWO important questions were considered. One — subsidiarity, the doctrine that grants from the Lottery or Europe should not be an excuse for reducing public expenditure on the same project — produced a reaction which revealed that the committee understood neither the machinery of government nor human psychology. Smith told the committee: "With Lottery funds also at its disposal, the National Heritage memorial fund could not have priority for the use of resources in a particularly tight financial year." The logic of that seems impeccable to me. But not to the committee.

The darkest recommendation of all was written in a sentence which was obviously badly compressed from a whole paragraph. "The Secre-

سكنا من الامم

Facing a new agency
The EU needs unity

Letters to the Editor

Sol

A

Among

Local heroes

David McKie

The Guardian

Monday June 15 1998
Edition Number 47202
119 Farringdon Road, London EC1R 3ER
Tel No: 0171-278 2332
Fax No: 0171-837 4530
E-mail: letters@guardian.co.uk
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Facing a new agenda The EU needs unity

IF IT'S MONDAY, it must be the EU summit in Cardiff. A flood of high-level meetings, with many of the same cast attending, has swept through Britain in recent days. Friday's emergency meeting of the G8 to discuss the Indo-Pakistan nuclear crisis merged into a meeting of the Contact Group on Kosovo. This had been preceded elsewhere by Nato and EU meetings on the same subject — which will come up again at the summit. It also seems very little time since the British presidency was being launched on the Eurostar platform: the verdicts are already being sharpened. Has it been "busy and workmanlike" (Doug Henderson) or a "bang that ended with a whimper" (Menzies Campbell) or simply a "flop" (Michael Howard)? The truth is that it has been none of these things because there was never time for it either to deliver or to disappoint. Not least among the serious problems in need of structural reform which the EU must decide to tackle after Cardiff is the bedroom farce of a

revolving presidency which can only become more hysterical following enlargement of its membership.

Britain to no one's surprise is claiming rather too much credit for what has been achieved over the past half year, though that is par for the presidential course. That our turn happened to coincide with launching the single currency and setting in motion the enlargement process was an accident of the calendar. It was in no one's interests for either enterprise to fail. As it was, the British team never overcame the handicap of overseeing the euro launch while remaining outside it for an undefined period. It is a mark of the semantic obscurity in which British entry still lurks that Robin Cook's pronouncement yesterday should be regarded as significant. The matter is being "kept under review" ... there will be a "hard-headed assessment" ... This "may well suggest" entry some time early in the next century ... Why not just say the truth out loud? "We'll wait till we've won the next election and then do it." As for enlargement, Cyprus may be one of the more intractable problems left over by history (and the previous presidency), but Britain might have handled the Turkish aspect a little more tactfully. Mr Blair has left rather late the message he gave the

Greek prime minister on Saturday that there is widespread support for reopening "fruitful discussions" with Ankara.

Those who keep up with this everyday tale of EU folk may be bemused by the latest twist. This has Germany and France playing the anti-Brussels card and calling for a more decentralised EU while Britain, though slightly huffy about being upstaged, tags along. Mr Blair's rhetoric about a Europe for the people has also been picked up — with the apparent sub-text that it should be a Europe for the countries with the most people. Chancellor Kohl's electoral worries are clear enough, but such language hints at more serious concerns. Enlargement was always subliminally at odds with the philosophy of economic integration. Despite all the denials, widening is not the same as deepening. The arguments for the first are primarily strategic, those for the second (whatever Bonn may have insinuated when it presented integration as the only way to save Germany from itself) are primarily economic. The smaller EU nations are right to mistrust this new populism, but if there is a real concern about Brussels, then the solution must lie in increasing the powers of the European Parliament. And if a Labour Government really seeks to establish a new social-

democratic axis across Europe, then it should be exploring along that road.

There remains Kosovo and what it represents — the direct antithesis of that spirit of enlargement and European togetherness of which so much has been made. At the start of the British presidency there was a strong commitment to strengthening the EU's common foreign and security policy. There has been little evidence of this so far whether in the Middle East or the Balkans. It should be high on the agenda for structural reform. The EU has already floundered once over former Yugoslavia: it cannot credibly move forward if there is more confusion among its members.

now have a cast-iron excuse, only bettered by the stoppage at Ford's Dagenham plant because of a shortage of door latches.

The ritual of the British "sickie" is accompanied as always by the equally traditional "employers' lament." This consists of various interested bodies reckoning up the amount of output allegedly lost and complaining that this will have dire consequences for the nation. The UK economy may "lose" a billion pounds during the World Cup — more if the English team wins some games. Yesterday the London Chamber of Commerce did its own maths, reckoning up the "cost" of the tube strike as £35 million. This makes little sense. There are very few types of production where output is permanently lost. The picture of foreign customers fuming because of a single day's delay at the producers' end is simply false. By the same argument, every national holiday taken would be a catastrophe.

Staying at home, will people also follow the advice of the Health Education Authority and mix one of its now recommended alcohol-free cocktails? The England Energiser, for instance, which includes ice cream and red grape juice garnished with blueberries? What a pity the English fans weren't drinking it in Marseille yesterday.

Workers' play And it won't ruin England

THE OFFICE worker who turns up in central London today may be greeted — if there is anyone else there — like a character in the H M Bateman cartoon. The man who came to work when there was a Tube strike on! Last week we suggested a sensible use of flexitime plus in-house TV sets might tackle the problem of England's first World Cup game. London workers at least

Letters to the Editor

Famous person erred here

PERHAPS somebody should tell Lloyd Grossman that Liverpool already has a collection of plaques (admittedly not all blue — some are red) commemorating famous local people (Great Liverpudlians to get plaques, June 12). Walking to work this morning from Lime Street station I saw at least two — one in the station itself marking the birthplace of Frank Hornby of Meccano and train set fame, and one in Bixteth Street marking the birthplace of the artist George Stubbs. There are several others around the city, including one in Rodney Street on the former home of William Gladstone. Chris Quinn, Widnes, Cheshire.

WHERE did he get the idea that plaques exist only in London? Many cities and towns in the sticks have them. Ludlow suffers from a veritable plague of plaques. My favourite is on a house on the site of an inn where a farmer who did not live in Ludlow but whose daughter married somebody famous used to drink when he came to market. Denis Beaumont, Wolverhampton.

JOHN Thirkill (Letters, June 12) appears to be under the eccentric impression that God Save the Queen is the United Kingdom's national anthem. If so, perhaps he can explain why a later verse describes with such relish the crushing of rebellious Scots? K Crook, Windsor, Berks.

LIKE many offices around the country, we have decided to run a sweepstake on the World Cup. Instead of the normal boring, team-will-win, we each have to state how many times we think that commentators will refer to African teams as "naïve", Scotland as "brave", Germany as either "methodical" or "disciplined" and any South American side as having "typical flair". My bet is in the hundreds. Mike Johnson, Winchester.

Some tips on gratuities

AS ONE who has had experience of exploitation at the hands of those who control the restaurant business, I found your comments on tipping (Leader, June 12) highly relevant. When a customer pays a service charge on a bill, that money has to be administered. In all cases this will be for the "house" (ie the restaurant) as there are no unions so the staff cannot organise such a thing themselves. Normally this money is placed in what is known as a trunk account and is owned by the house.

The money can therefore be used for any purpose whatsoever. Tax is deducted at 25 per cent and from there the house does as it pleases. In my case, from a week's trunk the management — numbering three — would share 50 per cent, whilst a total of 10 other staff shared the rest. As a result of their higher basic and their share of cash tips, some managers would take home up to £700 a week —

for managing a small restaurant.

The issue is further complicated in that the house can, if they wish, deduct money for staff meals or anything else — in our case, £100 a week was taken out to pay the florist (I also know of a restaurant that took money from the trunk to pay for a new seat for the staff toilet).

Furthermore, sick pay or holiday pay is only paid on the basic wage and no contribution comes from the trunk account. Cash tips, however, are something that waiters like. They are an immediate indicator of how one's shift is going and encourage the waiter to work harder. Waiting is a dispiriting and arduous job; if you can wait out of the restaurant at the end of the night with a pocketful of cash it makes the misery worth it. What the government should do is set a guaranteed minimum wage for waiters, abolish the service charge and

then cash tips can be left at the discretion of the patron. Patrick Clifton, London.

IN my home country (Denmark), the price on a menu is the price you pay. It will include taxes and service as well as any in-built cover charge and the vegetables or salad that go with a main course.

Last week two friends and I enjoyed a meal in an elegant British-style restaurant in the heart of Mayfair. Alongside the high prices for wine, mineral water (over £3 a bottle) and food — admittedly all clearly marked — there were various "extras". A cover charge of £1 per head, vegetables at £7.50 then £2 for some mashed potatoes. Plus, of course, service at £2 each, which added a further £20 to the bill. For the unwary or the continental visitor unused to such costs, it might seem a little deceitful. Soren Fischer, Bournemouth.



Death leagues make me sick

THE concept of morbidity and mortality league tables makes us all feel much better because now the state has taken urgent steps to safeguard us from future surgical tragedies and has given us all a better deal under the National Health Service (Doctors called to account, June 10). We shall now be better informed, more empowered and placed in the power that informed decisions about who to choose to perform the next operation we happen to need.

Am I living on another planet? Has someone secretly turned the NHS into a sleek, efficient healthcare system while I slept last night? Instead of waiting in excess of a year for non-urgent elective

surgery to be performed by the first available surgeon in the first available slot, can I now choose the surgeon boasting the best post-operative outcomes without delay? Each time the nation faces some apparent crisis, we have to suffer through the shambling reshuffling, reorganising, committee-forming, lip-serving processes that are designed by the powers that be to create the illusion of progress, whilst we plunge deeper into disarray, losing sight of the real issues.

We are not fools. We deserve better leadership and insight from our leaders, not cheap political point-scoring. Dr Andrew Syndercombe, Newcastle-upon-Tyne.

Air traffic: confusing signals

OXFORD East MP Andrew Smith made a memorable speech at the 1996 Labour conference. To sell off the Air Traffic Control Service was "crazy", he told us. "Our air" would not be for sale under a Labour Government (Brown's £12bn sale, June 12). He was clear and emphatic; there could have been no doubting him. His views were wrong, but we respected him for it. Now he is part of a Labour Government that has just adopted the same "crazy" policy. Has our MP changed his mind? How many other Tory policies does he plan to borrow when he is going to go the whole way and join us? Dr David J Timson, Deputy Chairman (political), Oxford East Conservative Association.

HOW interesting that New Labour is intending to continue the great Tory tradition. A privatised tote, or even the Mint (a licence to print money) doesn't really worry me. But if air traffic was controlled by (for example) a consortium of Railtrack, Connex and Group 4, would anyone want to fly again? Balancing safety and profits should not be an option. K W Joy, Kenilworth, Warks.

We do not publish letters where only an e-mail address is supplied; please include a full postal address and day-time telephone number. We may edit letters. We regret we cannot acknowledge those not used. The Country Diary is on Page 10

Just for the record, the music industry is doing fine

THE music industry is not going through a crisis as you report (Pop goes the music scene's future, June 10). It is merely going through the normal seasonal cycle where spring and early summer have always meant a slowdown in record sales, particularly this year, with the distraction of the World Cup. When you give sales figures of recent number ones such as Catatonia, you neglect the sales that preceded the number one position (in Catatonia's case, 14 weeks of them), and also neglect the sales that follow. Catatonia have sold nearly 400,000 in the UK and look to sell as many more. All this for an artist who only broke through in late February this year.

Similarly, The Corrs have sold 400,000 in the UK and will probably go on to sell one million — not bad for a band who only had their first hit single five weeks ago.

Titanic, Celine Dion, Madonna and Simply Red are all platinum or multi-platinum. New acts such as Robbie Williams and All Saints have maintained constant chart presence in the top ten albums this year, both selling in excess of one million and looking set to continue. The singles chart continues to produce large sales and many new faces with teenage bands such as Cleopatra and B*witched both scoring top five with their first singles.

Music consumers are going for more and more mainstream sounds, as this year's charts have proven.

As for the claim that record companies will cease to be of importance in the Internet age, I would like to ask Alan McGee who is going to put the financial, marketing and promotional support behind the launch of new artists? As proven by both Catatonia and The Verve, success does not appear with the first note of music but needs nurturing, perhaps for years, to establish them as artists who the general public would even know about, let alone download. The underground is in need of care, focus and support for the future whilst the overground seems to be doing very nicely, thank you. Rob Dickins, Chairman Warner Music UK, London.

MUSIC promotion has to start with mainstream radio. One of the reasons for the decline of the music scene is the reliance of radio stations on "personality presenters" and the fact that the same tracks from young, marketing-over-enthusiastic groups will be played over and over again. But the most important reason for the lack of sales has to be the extortionate prices charged for chart CDs. Mike Burge, Harrogate.

Among peers (and posers)

AKNIGHTHOOD for David Hare, author of *The Absence of War*, that fine drama about a crushing Labour election defeat? Richly deserved. But has anyone told the Prime Minister that that final bitter "Let's all become Tories" speech of Hare's fictional Labour leader, George Jones, was intended as irony rather than manifesto? Jan Shuttleworth, London.

IS THE life peerage awarded to the Rev Dr Kathleen Richardson the first truly radical act of this Labour Government (Lords seat for ordained woman, June 13)? Keith G Jones, Didcot, Oxfordshire.

IN listing the names of the recipients, who decided that the marital status of the females are important? The women are noted as Miss or Mrs, whereas the men just have their first names and surnames included. It seems that, even though these women have made an outstanding contribution within

their field, whether they are married or not is still an issue. Miranda Kemp, Miranda.

WHEN ARE we going to be shown the real honours list (Matthew Engel, June 13) — those who were offered a bauble, but turned it down? Nicholas Blackstock, Bradford, W Yorkshire.

One for the lads

FOUND myself in total agreement with Katherine Viner on the Stan Collymore-Ulrika Jonsson affair (June 12). Bad-diel and Skinner's "joke" and the reaction of the studio audience, have the misogyny behind much allegedly ironic laddism. Indeed, the reactions of many to both the Collymore incident and Paul Gascoigne illustrate that, for all of the supposed gentification of the last decade, professional football remains shot through with patriarchal attitudes. Colin Daffern, Salford.

Light on Newton

ONCE again, the Royal Mint has shot itself in the foot while trying to honour Britain's achievements in science and engineering. We have already had a note portraying the wrong Stevenson, and one with a mistaken orbital diagram. Now, we are told (Report, June 12) that the new £2 coin bears the inscription "Standing on the shoulders of giants" from Newton's "description of how earlier thinkers helped him to discover gravity". In fact, the famous phrase comes from a letter written years before the publication of Newton's theory of gravity. It refers to a bitter conflict between Newton and Robert Hooke about the nature of light, and the main thrust of the phrase is to literally belittle Hooke, who was a very short man — almost a dwarf. The unkindness of the comment accurately reflects Newton's true, immodest character — he didn't believe he needed help from anyone in formulating his theories. John Gribbin, (author, *Newton in 90 Minutes*) University of Sussex.

Local heroes

David McKie



NOTTINGHAM, which disappeared him at the time, is now anxious to recover the ashes of DH Lawrence from Taos, New Mexico, where it's said they are being treated irreverently. Kirkcaldy, meanwhile, is accused of insulting its most famous son, Adam Smith, author of the *Wealth of Nations*, by removing his name from the signs which greet you as you enter the town and replacing it with the

name of the German town with which it is twinned. "A disaster for the tourist industry," the chairman of its Civic Society, who is also a Lib Dem councillor, is reported as saying. "I don't think the Labour Party in Fife like Adam Smith, because his policies don't always agree with theirs." But the council leader denies political pique is involved. We can't have everything on the signs, and Adam Smith is commemorated on civic buildings," she says. "I don't feel that he is neglected."

One civic icon promoted, another relegated: a necessary reminder, for those who aspire to the condition, that the role of local hero is rather more precarious than is often assumed. Lawrence was spurned at the time for being morally dubious, wild and permissive: "no better than a scoundrel," as Nottinghamshire probably said of him. Smith is rejected now as a forerunner of Thatcherism (though just possibly, of

Blairism too). Which suggests rule number one for those who aspire to be civic icons: don't get too far out of the place from which you spring. Margaret Thatcher was born in Grantham, but it's Isaac Newton, from the nearby village of Colsterworth, who is blazoned across the railway station, returning travellers say, as Grantham's bid to entrap the casual tourist.

It always seems odd that circumspect Lewes should lay claim to such a ferocious radical as Tom Paine, though he lived in the town, worked as a customs man there, and married a local girl (whom he ditched after only three years). Even Thetford, in Norfolk, where he was born, used to shake its head sadly over his views. It was not until the 1860s, more than 150 years after his death, that Thetford round to erecting a statue, and even then the local Tories opposed it: they said he'd brought shame on the town.

Rule number two: try to be born in a middle-sized town where there's not too much competition, or where the town has associations it is anxious to see replaced. Then stay there. Do not fit promises to change your life from place to place; it will only cause confusion and envy.

The simplest identifications are best: Drake with Plymouth, for instance; Smith (thill now) with Kirkcaldy; or LS Lowry with Salford. True, he ended his life in Mottram in Longdendale but that is largely forgotten. Isambard Kingdom Brunel, though in most ways an ideal icon, has too many claimants. True, Portsmouth, where he was born (as was Charles Dickens) makes more of Nelson — though here it has to contend with Norfolk, his birthplace, the London borough of Merton, where he lived with Emma, and for reasons which now elude me,

with Monmouth. But Brunel is big in Hillingdon, the heartland of his university, big in Swindon, because of the GWR, and truly immense in Bristol (for the docks, the station, the Clifton suspension bridge); there are almost 40 entries in the Bristol business phone book for outfits cashing in on Brunel, from Brunel Auto-Electric Car Alarms through flooring services, health care and private investigators to a Brunel Buttery Catering Kiosk, which no doubt builds its buns on a wider gauge than anyone else's.

Even the Bromfries have to be shared between Haworth and the Bradford suburbs where they were born. Rugby in Staffordshire, in contrast, has spent years trying to throw off its association with the famous Victorian criminal Palmer, the poisoner. The townspeople at the time are said to have petitioned the Prime Minister to change the name of their

town. Certainly, said Palmerston: on condition you change it to Palmerston.

Rule number three: don't do anything too indiscreet. The Awful Warning here is Lady Godiva. Rivalled at the time as a benefactress and patron of religious houses, she's remembered now only for riding naked through Coventry. She is paying a heavy price for it. In Leicester, just up the road, Simon de Montfort, reputed "father of English democracy", is respectfully commemorated by statesmanlike organisations like finance brokers, a housing society, a quality centre and a university. But in Coventry, Godiva is trailing along behind her such organisations as Godiva Bar Supplies, Godiva Guns and even a Godiva Rider Courier Service. Dress optional, one assumes. On the other hand, it has to be said, had she never taken her clothes off, she might not be remembered at all.

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Reg Smythe

The North star

REG Smythe has died at the age of 80, but his soul goes marching on. Which is to say Wednesday and had already drawn enough strips about Andy Capp, his creation and, so his friends say, his alter ego, to run in the Mirror and Sunday Mirror for another year.

Nobody who knew him would be surprised. In his pre-Capp days (almost pre-history), hungry for success, Smythe hit publications around Britain with as many as 50 cartoons a day. He managed publication once with Punch, but then hit the jackpot with Hugh Cudlipp's Daily Mirror.

Capp, like Smythe, was born in Hartlepool. Like Smythe, he had a wife who cosseted him but no children (Smythe's wife, Vera, died last year; he married his second wife, Jean, only three weeks ago). Both Capp and Smythe liked a pint or three. Both of them smoked like chimneys (Capp's cigarette never came unglued from his lower lip), and both gave up in 1983. But only Smythe had a Mercedes in the garage.

Smythe left school at 14 without career prospects. Like many kids who weren't much academically, he could draw a bit. During the second world war he saw action in Africa with the Northumberland Fusiliers; more to the point, whenever the regiment needed a poster to advertise a function, Fusilier Smythe got the call.

Demobbed, he rose in the Post Office to clerk, grade three. Then one of those daily drawings fired off into the blue tickled the fancy of the Mirror's cartoon editor. It grew to a small series before Hugh Cudlipp decided that the Mirror needed a strip cartoon for its northern editions. Smythe seemed to have the qualifications. Hartlepool in 1957 looked as though it was anticipating the recession of the Thatcher years: a grimy, run-down industrial conurbation with a run of pubs selling Camerons bitter, a powerful magnet for soldiers from Cat-

terick camp on 36-hour passes; nearly a caricature of how every southerner thought of the North.

It might have been an unprivileged background, but to Cudlipp it suggested that Smythe had the ideal qualifications: he told Smythe to go away and think. Smythe came back with Andy Capp. As planned, it ran in the north-east editions published from Withy Grove in Manchester but was such a resounding success, with staff as much as readers, that within a few weeks it was translated into a national treasure.

The idea was so simple nobody can understand why it wasn't done before. Andy Capp is the archetypal northern working man. He never owned a whipper — probably too much of a drink on the beer money — but he sports a flat cap (which in these days of full colour is a garish green check) and a white muller knotted at the neck. In repose on the sofa in the parlour, he merely removes his jacket, revealing the top half of long johns buttoned to the throat. His pint, which is to hand at home almost as often as it is down the Dog and Duck, stands within reach on the arm of the sofa.

As Cudlipp once put it, Andy Capp is a "work-shy, beer-swilling, rent-dodging, wife-bashing, pigeon-fancying, uncouth cadger".

'A work-shy, beer-swilling, wife-bashing, pigeon-fancying, soccer-playing, uncouth cadger'

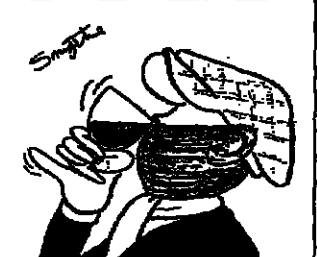
ing, soccer-playing, uncouth cadger, setting an appalling example to the youth of Britain". Andy Capp is a "work-shy, beer-swilling, rent-dodging, wife-bashing, pigeon-fancying, uncouth cadger".

During his 40-plus years at the Mirror (so far), Capp hasn't changed much. Neither



'Florrie, I'm 'ome'. ... Reg Smythe left a supply of his cartoons to see his world-wide fans through the next year

he nor Smythe vouchsafed the reason for stopping smoking, but it can hardly have been because Capp had developed a social conscience. The major change, gradual but unmistakable, was that over the



years Capp has become more cowed by his indomitable spouse. Towards the end Smythe described him, as "naughty rather than nasty". A likely story.

Florrie, Andy's wife (named after Smythe's mother, just as

Capp was modelled on his father), wears a belted coat and headscarf to the pub; waiting at home with a rolling pin to greet her spouse on his inevitably inebriated return, she sports rollers in her hair.

Together against the world, in the pub or on the football pitch, where she exercises near caustic wit from the touchline (he still plays, though he must be 60 if he's a day) they can be a formidable duo. But normally they fight with scarcely a let-up. Only yesterday in the Sunday Mirror, in one frame Capp returns home under a mid-night moon soiling: "One thing you can say about inviting trouble ...". In the next frame he ducks a flying suitcase propelled by Florrie and adds: "... It usually accepts."

That's the world of Andy Capp in a nutshell. As a matter of fact, his world is scarcely bigger than a nutshell. Same situations, same kind of dialogue, same suc-

cess with the readers. It can't have been all that easy for Smythe, because after a few years in London serving his masters at the Mirror, he bought his wife, Vera, and himself a bungalow in Hartlepool and went back home. It seemed he needed a bracing breeze off the North Sea for his inspiration. Not to mention the Camerons.

Academics looked at Andy Capp and tried to draw parallels with post-war life in Britain. The great art historian E.H. Gombrich described the daily dose of Andy Capp as the X-ray of the nation's collective unconscious. Feminists might have something more to say, if they could bring themselves to study the strip. (But it won't bear that weight and would be too ponderous to laugh at if it did.)

And they would probably find it difficult to draw blood. For all that Andy is a figure of fun drawn from the industrial working class, and a misanthrope with it, he didn't share the working-class male's

habit of hiding pay slips from his wife so that she wouldn't know what he was getting. Capp, again like Smythe, had money doled out to him by his better half. Smythe himself freely admitted that he was given pocket money out of the fortune he earned. His biggest extravagance in later years was his six-monthly shopping trips to Oxford Street, and heaven help him if he missed the last train home from London.

His strip is syndicated in more than 900 newspapers around the world, a success that suggests that Hartlepool man has an abiding appeal, not to new men but not to wife-bashers, either: probably there's a useful self-recognition from almost anyone who has returned home to find a note saying "Gone home to mum. Your dinner's in the oven."

Michael McNay
Reg Smythe, cartoonist, born July 10, 1917; died June 13, 1998

Letters

James Dunkerley writes: Your obituary of Bill Condry (June 2) has given us a perspective and tender portrait of the man, but as somebody who suffered from Bill's atheism through his refusal to be my godfather some 40 years ago, I would like to place a little more stress on his social convictions, political campaigning and international vision. Very often his Guardian column would carry the address of some small and apparently obscure organisation promoting the cause of nature with the suggestion that the reader make a modest contribution.

His portrait of Thoreau and the secular environmentalism of Massachusetts in the 1840s remains fresh and radical 45 years after publication; he quotes the gadfly who had once looked Thoreau up for a night when he refused to pay a poll tax raised to fund the invasion of Mexico, and remarked of the TB-stricken

Thoreau that he had never seen a man "dying with so much pleasure and peace". Condry, like Thoreau, drew on nature to understand himself and his circumstances, and he championed a love rooted no less in the closeness of observation than in the expression of sentiment.

Andrew Lambert writes: If we had a question we would ask Bill Condry and be sure of a kindly and perfect reply. More than just a naturalist, Bill had steeped himself in the history and legends of his adopted country and was deeply respectful of its distinctive culture.

Always ready to praise and encourage others, he would grin self-deprecatingly at eulogies of himself, but he will continue to receive such eulogies for as long as there are people to read his books about Snowdonia. In every thing about Bill Condry there was a quality of blessedness.

A Country Diary

BLAKENEY POINT, Norfolk: Within minutes, the Good Gulls had cleared Morston creek and was heading for the deeper channel that runs in a sinuous arc around the sand-dunes and terminal spits at this National Trust reserve.

Although it borders on anthropomorphism to suggest it, the noisy, crowded scenes there had an urban intensity. Along the higher ridges of shingle, thousands of terns and gulls were squabbling over territory, copulating with master, squatting tightly on newly-laid eggs, or adjusting nest material to individual tastes.

Elsewhere, busy partners were raiding the high tide for dear life. Time after time the terns hovered and dove in the shallows with needle-like precision: down, up, away, down, up, away, and always returning to the colony with a wriggling sand-eel in their beaks.

We rounded on to the seaward side of the Point and slowed the engine to admire the sunbathers. Doe-eyed and with almost yogic suppleness, the grey and common seals

sprawled at the water's edge. Occasionally they raised their flippers, arched their backs and heaved their heads and necks upwards to form a deep bow, before flopping back down with a great sigh of contentment.

Later when we had run up the sails and were drifting silently on the southerly breeze, the seals even made us feel as if we could share in the collective atmosphere of the sunbathers. Inevitably individuals would pop up just metres from the Good Gulls, so that our children squealed and clapped with delight.

The only creatures that seemed to spurn the pleasures of company at Blakeney Point were the cormorants. These birds were way off on a distant sandbar. Standing in an evenly spaced line right at the tide edge and with wings outstretched so that they appeared to be cloaked in black, they struck an odd, almost judicial note, like a surreal jury debating the mysteries of the sea.

MARK COCKER

Birthdays

Sir David Alliance, chairman, Coats Viyella, 66; Richard Baker, broadcaster, 73; Jaki Byard, jazz musician, 76; Simon Callow, actor, 49; Martin Caton, Labour MP, 47; Mary Ellis, actress and singer, 56; Brigitte Fossey, actress, 51; Johnny Herbert, racing driver, 34; Jack Lively, professor of politics, 68; Henry McLeish, MP, minister of state, Scottish Office, 50; Nicola Pagett, actress, 53;

Prof Paul Patterson, composer, 51; John Redwood MP, former government minister, 47; Sukhdev Sharma, chief executive, Commission for Racial Equality, 52; Roger Silverstone, professor of Media Studies, University of Sussex, 53; Sir Wilfrid Stephen Bosua war crimes tribunal judge, 75; Samere Tansley, artist and children's book illustrator, 54; Tom Taaffe, jockey, 35.

Eric Tabarly

France's fastest man at sea

ERIC Tabarly, who has been lost at sea aged 66, was the greatest deep-sea racing sailor in the world. He was the toast of France from the moment he won the Observer Single Handed Transatlantic Race in 1964; he was embraced by President Charles de Gaulle and created a Companion of the Legion d'Honneur for breaking an Anglo-Saxon stranglehold in the sport.

He had taken a bigger boat than was held suitable for one man, and sailed it to the limits of his undoubted ability. To the French, Tabarly epitomised all that was sailing. They worshipped the water he sailed on and he repaid them with superlative performance. He was not interested in the ordinary, and while he loved the traditional — he was lost from the boat in which he had learned to sail, the old, five-designed, vessel Pen Duick bought by his father in 1938 — he was open-minded about development and even innovative in the boats he sailed.

Because of his initial success, money was found for him, as a lieutenant in the French Navy, to experiment and fund his sailing exploits. He had his failures, too, largely through pushing ideas in too short a time: this is what happened to the trimaran in which he proposed to defend his OSTAR win in

1968. It was a 75-foot long craft and it was so far ahead of its time that nothing really worked and he failed to make the start. That boat, in the hands of his protégé, Alain Colas, later won the race.

Tabarly, meanwhile, had planned an assault on the newly-proposed Whitbread Round-the-World Race. His boat, Pen Duick VI, used spent uranium in the keel as it had a higher specific gravity than the lead which was normally used.

He was to win the OSTAR again in 1976, in Pen Duick VI, a 73-footer, a performance which meant that he was, unusually, awarded the British Yachtsman of the Year trophy, since that time the trophy has been reserved for British nationals, but Eric delighted in winning it. The idea appealed to his Breton sense of humour.

His "pupils" have contrib-

uted constantly to the continuing French success at sea. Tabarly was born in Nantes, and after attending maritime college joined the navy in which he served until 1966. He worked for the French ministry of youth and sport for seven years from 1964, and then served as an inspector of sailing at Fontainebleau. He was tough in an archetypal sailor's way, with hands like clusters of marlin spikes, but a shy, soft man in all other respects. He had few mannerisms, except that rolling gait which is his almost cartoon-like stance among older sailors, and a penchant for wearing blue-and-white striped jerseys.

He affected to have no English, claiming that, when the Newport coastguard told him he had won the 1964 OSTAR, he was not sure what they were saying. But when he asked me to take his Yachtsman of the Year trophy back from a far-flung port, the request was almost accent-free.

Tabarly was a free-thinker, a pragmatist, and a practical sailor. That freedom of thought led him to build and develop a hydrofoil-borne multi-hull, Paul Ricard, with which he finally beat, in 1980, the time of the 187-foot three-masted schooner, Atlantic, for a west-east crossing of the

Atlantic. Because of the size of the boat which established the record in 1985, it had looked set to stand forever.

Paul Ricard was a forerunner of the fast multi-hulls which are primarily, due to Tabarly, the choice of French sailors, and united modern materials and technology.

Paul Ricard was to be his vessel for his last attempt on the single-handed race across the Atlantic — he finished fourth in 1984. He appeared thereafter to have retired from racing. He married Jacques Charlot and they had a daughter Marie, of whom he was extraordinarily proud. His sailing life had been good and he was able to enjoy his legendary status, until drawn out of his retirement by a call from the French Post Office.

Their 84-foot ketch, La Poste, sailing in the 1983/4 Whitbread, needed the master's touch, and he joined the yacht as skipper in Fremantle, Australia. Taking a core crew with him, Tabarly improved the boat's performance dramatically, although not by enough to win the race. The attendant publicity in France was enormous, and his employers were rewarded for thinking of him as a maritime messenger.

Only last year, Tabarly was back at the leading edge of grand prix sailing. In the Transat Jacques Vabre, with Yves Parlier, he sailed this two-handed race to Cartagena, Columbia, aboard the 60-foot Innovations Aquitaine. They won.

Tabarly died because of his own success as a single-hander. He constantly refused to use safety harnesses, life-jackets and personal flares. He was knocked overboard by the gaff when dousing the mainsail of that ancient cutter, Pen Duick. It had not been new when his father bought it: in fact, it was 100 years old, and he had celebrated its centenary recently with friends at a three-day party at his home in Benodet. That celebration will be a lasting memory of him, as well as his craft.

Bob Fisher

Eric Marcel Guy Tabarly, sailor, born July 24, 1931; died June 12, 1998

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Labour's battle for coal brings lawsuit threat

Labour's battle for coal brings lawsuit threat. The Labour government's plan to nationalise the coal industry has led to a lawsuit threat from the coal industry. The Labour government's plan to nationalise the coal industry has led to a lawsuit threat from the coal industry.

Monday June 15 1998

Can Britain take the Chancellor's remedy? page 12

Tomorrow: Why get-up-and-go got up and went

Executive Financial Editor: Ben Clisitt
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FinanceGuardian

Millar to fight British Bio writ

Group sues 'to protect itself'

Tony May

ANDREW Millar, whose allegations caused a near-collapse in shares of British Biotech, vowed to fight a writ for damages from the company although he faces losing his home.

The former head of clinical research at the company — who claimed the group was over-optimistic about its drug trials — said: "This is a fight I feel I am certain to win, but it is not a fight I want to have."

The company said Dr Millar continued to break his contract by giving out information to newspapers and it was acting to protect itself from further damage.

Dr Millar received a writ on Saturday from Slaughter & May, Biotech's solicitors, claiming undisclosed damages for breach of a confidentiality agreement.

Dr Millar accused the company of investing too much time and money in two drugs which had a limited chance of success. Allegations of insider dealing, rigged trials and withholding key information followed — causing the company to lose 83 per cent of its market value.

Dr Keith McCullagh, who founded the company 12 years ago and has become a multimillionaire, even though the British Biotech has not brought a product to market or made a profit, said he would resign as chief executive in September, but was cleared of any wrongdoing.

Dr Millar admits he discussed his doubts about the group's drug trials with Kleinwort Benson, the company's financial adviser, and Perpetual, a fund manager

which, with 9.5 per cent of the equity, is the group's biggest shareholder.

But he did so after they invited him to air his doubts about his concerns over the clinical research programme. He made them "insiders" on each occasion, so they could not deal on his information.

He said: "That could not be described as a reckless breach of confidence."

The company broke the agreement when it fired him, he said. He claimed he said nothing from the time he was suspended by the company on March 11 until he was summarily dismissed without compensation on April 20.

He then went to the press because he felt he had to save his own reputation. "I spent five nerve-racking weeks, but once I had started I felt it was not something I could walk away from."

His legal team argues that his confidentiality agreement was designed to prevent him selling company secrets to rivals, whereas "there was an impropriety which it was in the public interest to expose. A contract cannot be used to cover up an iniquity."

Dr Millar has been trying to get another post but, he said: "Nobody wants to give me a permanent position. I am viewed as trouble now."

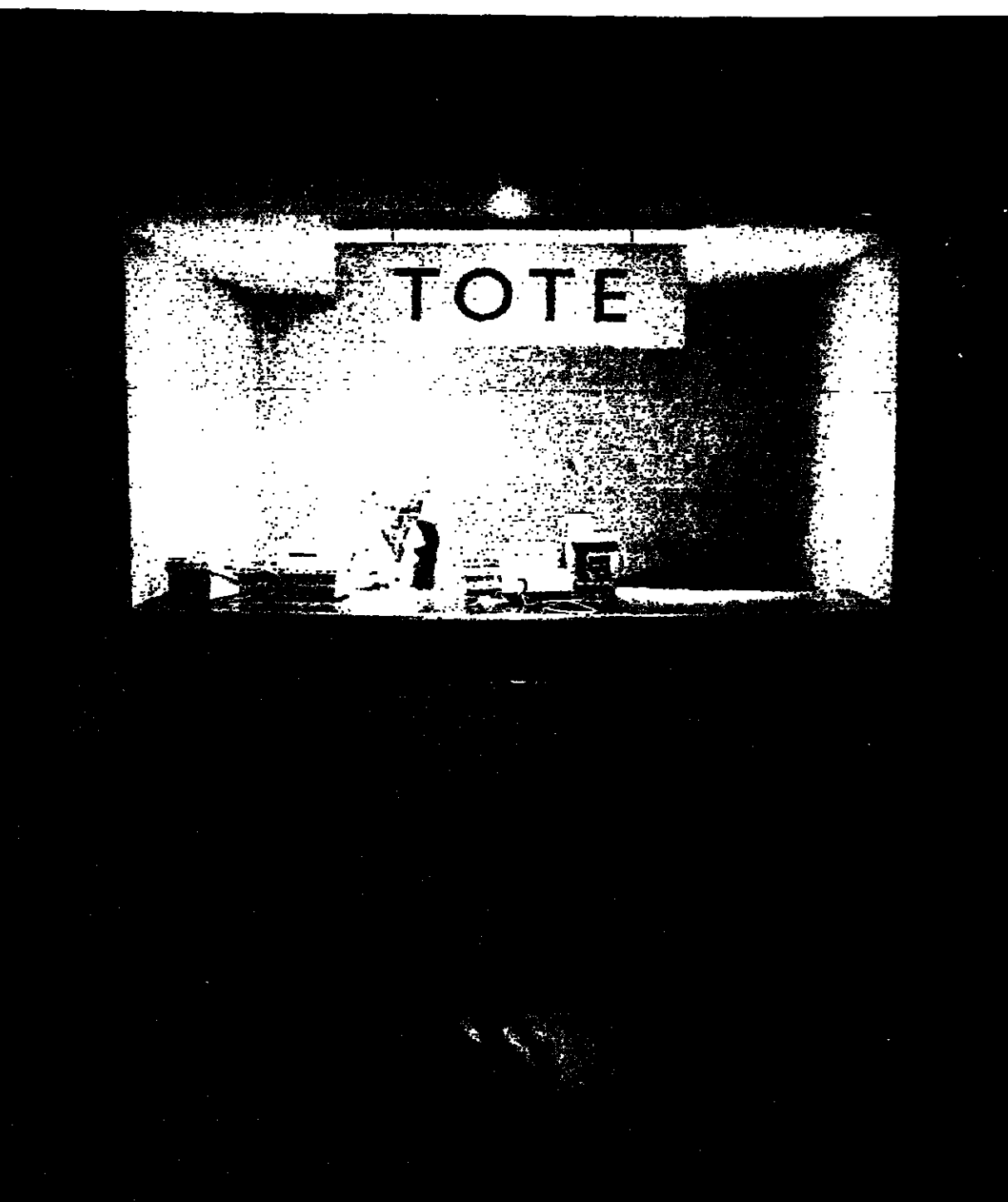
He fears defending himself will take a substantial amount of money and time. He will be unable to work to support his wife and three small children and his main asset, his house in Wallingford, Oxfordshire, is at stake.

The whole thing will come out into the open again," he said. "All the technical stuff as to why I thought the way I did and took the actions I did. I can't think that that is now in anyone's interest."

Dr Millar criticised the company's non-executive directors for not intervening to end the crisis. He said the company would do better concentrating on the way forward, and on how best to deploy the £130 million it has available for research.

His view gained the support of Bob Yerbury, chief investment officer of Perpetual, who said the company ought to be getting on with the hunt for a new chief executive and sorting out its position over the clinical trials.

Political gamble



Just the ticket... Greyhound track Tote office may soon be run by Camelot

PHOTOGRAPH: TOM JENNINGS

Starters line up for sell-off race

Simon Beavis and Tony May

GORDON Brown's privatisation programme has already flushed out some potential bidders for the main sales and raised the question of whether it will sweep across controversial targets such as the Post Office and British Nuclear Fuels.

Only days after the Chancellor unveiled plans to raise £12 billion over three years in what he prefers to call a new programme of public-private partnerships, the National Grid and Camelot have confirmed an interest in further privatisation contenders.

Itself the product of a Conservative privatisation, the Grid said it could be interested in taking control of the National Air Traffic Control System, while Camelot said it would consider bidding for the Tote, which operates race-course pool betting.

The Grid — which runs the national electricity transmission system and has said it wants 30 per cent of its earnings to be derived from outside the domestic power industry — is thought to have contacted the Treasury over the announcement of a sale which could raise between £250 million and £300 million.

A spokesman said: "We're potentially interested because of the fit of core skills and expertise. But it is early days."

A sale of 51 per cent of the company is not thought likely before autumn 1999.

Meanwhile, Camelot's chief executive, Tim Holley, said the company would be interested in the Tote if the Government approached it to consider a bid.

"There is a lot of logic in us getting together. We have state-of-the-art technology which could help," he said, but acknowledged such a move could be controversial.

"The question is whether there is the political will."

But, if the Government came to us, we would definitely be interested in it."

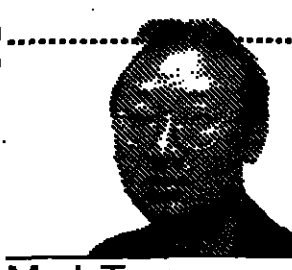
The Government's apparent enthusiasm for the sell-off considered too risky by the Tories has got financiers speculating.

The Post Office — which has long campaigned for greater commercial freedom — remains the most obvious target, because Labour has said it would consider selling a minority stake and is reviewing its options for sale.

The question being asked is whether the Treasury will consider privatising more than half of the company. BNF, the nuclear reprocessing group, has also made clear its ambitions to be free of state control.

American Notebook

Boeing begins to rise above clouds



Mark Tran

THE skies over Seattle were uncharacteristically clear for the B-17 Flying Fortress and the B-24 Liberator as two of Boeing's most illustrious war planes flew in celebration of the 70th anniversary of Boeing Field, the city's first big airport. For \$300, visitors could take a 40-minute joyride aboard the beautifully restored veteran aircraft.

Boeing's modern aircraft were also present, ready for delivery to airlines around the world. Boeing Field was named after William Boeing, a timber tycoon who created the company in 1916. Today, Boeing is America's leading exporter and the world's biggest aerospace company, after its merger with McDonnell Douglas last year.

In contrast to the Boeing Field festivities, the mood at Boeing headquarters in Marginal Way has been downcast. Standard & Poor's last week lowered its rating on Boeing and handed down a negative outlook for the company. The credit-rating agency cited lower-than-expected profitability and cash flow stemming from Boeing's embarrassing production problems.

These should be good times for Boeing with soaring demand for airliners. But extensive production bottlenecks and soaring costs have bedeviled the company. The production glitches lie in Boeing's ambitious plan to increase its output from 226 aircraft in 1995 to 550 in 1998, the biggest production "ramp-up" in civil aviation history.

Civilian aircraft manufacturing is a cyclical business and the industry is going through one of its peaks as airlines spend billions of dollars replacing ageing aircraft. Boeing this week releases its market outlook for the next 20 years, the industry's bible for aircraft orders. Last year, Boeing forecast that orders for the next 20 years would amount to 770 billion, with 4,200 aircraft for Europe alone, 700 for Britain. The Asian economic crisis may dent the latest outlook but the stakes remain huge for Boeing and Airbus, the two players in the game. Airbus has also benefited from the boom in civilian aircraft. Its orders for 1998 are expected to reach 235, from 124 in 1995.

BOEING's decision to boost production at such a rate is a tribute to Airbus's success. Boeing is unwilling to cede any market share by allowing Airbus to take orders it cannot fill. Boeing's production boost has been a boon to UK suppliers. In 1997, Boeing spent nearly \$2.3 billion on parts from more than 200 aerospace companies in Britain.

More than 21 British suppliers are working on the Boeing 737 — the world's best-selling

passenger plane — including Short's Smiths Industries and Hamble Aerstructures. Rolls-Royce is expected to deliver \$23 billion worth of commercial engine contracts to Boeing over the next 10 years. Boeing's go-for-broke approach put it in the red last year for the first time in 50 years. The company reported a \$178 million loss on sales of \$45.8 billion — \$27 billion from commercial aircraft.

The loss stemmed from two large write-offs: \$1.4 billion for McDonnell Douglas's struggling commercial aircraft operation at Long Beach and another \$1.5 billion to offset production bottlenecks on its next-generation 737, the 737NG. At one point, Boeing was forced to halt production of 747s and 737s for lack of parts and experienced workers to assemble the aircraft.

In another blow, Boeing is having to rebuild the first 54 of the 737NGs to incorporate two over-wing exits on each side demanded by European airworthiness regulations. Boeing had assumed that the emergency-exit design for the classic 737 would suffice. European regulators wanted more exits because the 737NG will carry more passengers.

RECENT defence mergers also proved a distraction for Boeing chairman and chief executive Philip Condit, who recently acknowledged that he spent too much time on the acquisitions of Rockwell and McDonnell Douglas. Boeing's deepening involvement in defence reflects Mr Condit's strategy of betting on the cyclical civilian aircraft business with defence contracts. Before the McDonnell Douglas deal, Boeing's business mix was 75 per cent civilian and 25 per cent military. Now it is 60 per cent and 40 per cent respectively.

The military sector, which includes the V-22 Osprey, RAH-66 Comanche helicopter and the F/A-18 Hornet and F-15 Eagle warplanes, tends to operate on a different cycle to the civilian aircraft business. So in the long term, the merger makes sense. Boeing also owns a 10 per cent stake in Teledyne, an \$8 billion venture to assemble a network of communications satellites.

In the meantime, Boeing and McDonnell Douglas have to hold their two different cultures — beginning at the top. Mr Condit, a 57-year-old aerodynamics engineer, is a consensus man, in keeping with Boeing style, while Harry Stonecipher from McDonnell has a reputation as an aggressive cost-cutter.

"They're still figuring the dance steps but everyone is committed to the dance," said a Boeing spokesman. Boeing believes it will meet its production target of 550 aircraft this year and the worst of its problems appear to be over. While issuing its negative outlook, S&P did take orders it cannot fill. Boeing's rating agency cited favourable market conditions, a mostly healthy global economy, improved airline industry profitability and the expectation of higher deliveries in the next two years. It will not be all clear blue skies for Airbus.

New niche for accountants

Pauline Springett

THE accountants PricewaterhouseCoopers, as the firm will be known after next month's merger, is planning an ambitious assault on the corporate finance market in a move set to propel it into the premier league of the City's advisers.

Richard Stone, head of European corporate finance at Coopers & Lybrand, said the plan was to target corporate finance deals worth up to \$1 billion (£610 million) each.

He said the UK corporate finance sector had changed dramatically in the last couple of years, because most of the City's traditional investment banks had been absorbed by multinational commercial banks, many of them German or American. Those banks were targeting deals made by the so-called Fortune 500 companies.

"They are after the mega deals," he said. "I suppose there are only a handful of banks targeting

the smaller deals and most of them are niche operators."

Mr Stone said the nub of PricewaterhouseCoopers' corporate finance approach was to offer clients a full strategy service, and not simply focus on processing the deal. The firm would also be able to help the client decide whether a particular deal was the best option or whether shareholders would be better served by a different strategy.

Mr Stone added that, after a deal was complete, the firm would offer a comprehensive taxation, consultation and integration service. "We will be able to offer to hold the client's hand on a long-term basis."

The corporate finance market is highly lucrative, and a spate of high-profile big deals would give the newly-merged firm a boost. There are an estimated 1,800 corporate finance deals in the UK every year, most below \$1 billion, of which Pricewaterhouse and Coopers & Lybrand currently handle only about 3 per cent.

Labour's battle for coal brings lawsuit threat

Colin Weston
Industrial Correspondent

THE energy war between gas and coal intensified yesterday as the Government faced a possible legal challenge to its attempted halt on the building of more gas-fired power stations and as RJB Mining hit out at the electricity watchdog for peaking coal.

American groups active in the British market, including Enron and Entergy, owner of London Electricity, have been vociferous in their opposition to the government-imposed ban on new gas-fired stations, as has British Gas.

Ministers, considering a five-year extension of the ban to halt out the deep-mined coal industry may have to defend decisions at judicial review or against charges of anti-competitiveness.

The hostilities in the power industry were increased last night by the release of a letter to Offer, the industry's regulator, from Colin Godfrey, RJB Mining's commercial director, urging power groups to support a shake-up of the electricity market to make more room for coal.

These developments come as industry leaders gather today in Birmingham to discuss Offer's proposed changes, which would effectively abolish the existing

wholesale electricity market, known as the pool. Critics of the wholesale system insist that it is rigged against coal-generated electricity.

"The trading arrangements have failed, in that they have encouraged the displacement of low-cost coal capacity by expensive gas stations," Mr Godfrey says.

The so-called dash for gas has meant the building of many more gas-fired power stations since privatisation, and has pushed up the cost of producing electricity by as much as £1 billion, he asserts.

"In 1998 to 1999 we estimate the additional price of gas-fired generation will cost customers £240 million over the price of coal-fired electricity."

But the regulator, he says, "remains unwilling to undertake an economic purchase review."

Instead, Mr Godfrey says, those he believes to be most guilty of abusing the present system — to the cost of customers — are mounting a rear-guard action to perpetuate the present arrangements.

The two-day Birmingham meeting comes days ahead of the Government's coal rescue plan devised by the Paymaster-General, Geoffrey Robinson. It is expected to guarantee an additional market for coal of up to another 25 million tonnes in each of the next five years.

This week

Tony May

KEVIN MacKenzie — who quit the troubled Mirror last week to bid for Talk Radio — should know this week who he will face in the race to buy CLT-UK's 63.3 per cent stake in the radio station.

Rivals are expected as early as today from up to three contenders besides Mr MacKenzie, who is supported by Rupert Murdoch's News International and MIV, the venture firm which already has 35 per cent of Talk. Rivals include the management, led by Paul Robinson, the US group Jacor and London News Radio — the consortium which includes ITN, Reuters and GWR.

Some see the Murdoch group's intervention as the start of a more concerted move into digital radio, rather than just a play to lure Mr MacKenzie away from the main rival to the Sun and the News of the World. The Talk Radio move could eventually propel Mr Murdoch into the Digital One team with GWR and the GINGER Group, owned by Chris Evans and Richard Branson.

Mr Branson also may agree this week a £140 million deal to buy WH Smith's controlling interest in Virgin Our Price record stores.

British Steel may couple news that it is to shed 12,500 white-collar jobs with its final results today. Some 4,000 of these are set to go by September 1998.

Analysts say the strong pound has lopped about £150 million of British Steel's profits and, while this should be at least partly offset by some £50 million of savings from the internal restructuring programme, profits should be down from £451 million to between £270 million and £300 million.

Hotels and casinos group Stakis is said to be stalking

the loss of shareholder value since Glaxo and SmithKline called off their merger talks and the combined market worth of the pair has been savaged, many believe both companies have strong independent futures.

Pressure for mergers in the drugs and life-science sectors has intensified following the recent link-up between Monsanto and American Home Products.

Big investors such as Mercury Asset Management are still nursing substantial losses, and have made it clear they would like the two groups to merge in order to repair their portfolios.

One senior stock-market dealer said: "The market is evenly split. I'm still pretty sceptical. I think it's gone away for a while."

Although some big fund managers have accepted

close to Sir Richard Sykes, chief executive of Glaxo, said: "We would intervene if they [SmithKline Beecham] tried to do something with anyone else."

Talks creating the world's biggest drugs group broke down after SmithKline Beecham's Jan Leschly and Glaxo's Sir Richard failed to agree on the combined group's form.

Market speculation has persistently suggested that Glaxo Wellcome will refuse to give up its predatory interest in SmithKline. Glaxo has blamed the failure of

the talks on Mr Leschly's ego. SmithKline argues that Sir Richard is the executive blocking the deal.

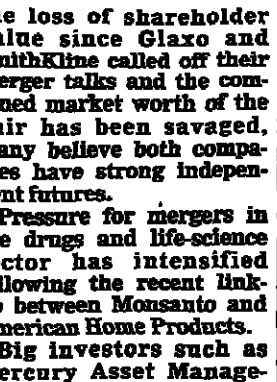
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Although some big fund managers have accepted



SmithKline's Jan Leschly, target of failed talks critics

Behind Tory trappings of Chancellor's speech lies a cohesive but risky strategy

Brown's study in blue and red

Larry Elliott

FOR many people, news that Labour is about to embark on its own privatisation programme is the last straw. As somebody said to me last week as the details of the sell-off emerged: "What exactly is the difference between this lot and the Tories?"

On the face of it, the answer is not much when it comes to economic policy and that all the talk of fiscal rigour, monetary stability, private-public partnerships and welfare reform only serve to highlight that we are being governed by a Mark 2 Conservative Party, which often outperforms the Mark 1 model.

More particularly, there is some bewilderment — especially on the left of the Labour Party — as to what Gordon Brown thinks he is doing. His battle to reduce the level of the minimum wage for young workers is not doing wonders for his image, nor is the Thatcherite zeal with which he is insisting that local authorities find £2.75 billion of assets each year to sell. We have got used to the mix of Iron Gordon and Red Gordon over the past couple of years; are we now going to have to learn to love Blue Gordon as well?

Perhaps so. There is a case for the Chancellor, but it means swallowing any misgivings about the Tote and air traffic control, and delving into the mysteries of what causes economic growth.

In the concluding chapter of his book *Peddling Prosperity*, Paul Krugman argues: "America has two great economic problems: slow growth in productivity and rising poverty (which is the consequence of inadequate productivity growth and increasing income inequality). Everything else is either of secondary importance or a dead issue."

Mr Brown would argue that Professor Krugman's analysis applies equally to Britain, which is why he has imported the Working Families Tax Credit and is seeking ways to close Britain's productivity

gap with France, Germany and the United States. The Chancellor is still interested in post-neo-classical endogenous growth theory, even though you won't hear him mention that in public these days.

Ultimately, the Government would love to raise Britain's long-term trend rate of growth, which since 1985 (the first date for which reliable figures are available) averages just under 2 per cent a year. Officials put it at 2.25 per cent — but can only arrive at that number by excluding the first and second world wars, and the years leading up to and after them. Whether this is justifiable is a moot point.

Increasing productivity is not the same as raising the long-term growth rate, which can be increased without any increase in productivity, either by people working longer hours or expansion of the population. A rising population has been one reason for American growth in recent years.

In the absence of a change to Britain's immigration laws, there is unlikely to be a rapid increase in the working-age population, which closes off one avenue to a higher growth

rate. That leaves raising Britain's productivity rate as an alternative.

Here, the Government has been commendably active. The Treasury and the Department of Trade and Industry are running a series of seminars to look at ways of raising Britain's output per head, with last Thursday's session exploring ideas for making the UK more entrepreneurial. Discussion focused on the alleged anti-industry culture fostered by schools and further education, and the tendency of the brightest students to prefer careers in the City or the media to business.

Education is central to the devotees of post-neo-classical endogenous growth theory. The argument is that in a world where any country can lay its hands on raw materials and finance the real issue is how to raise the quantity and quality of human capital.

There are two problems with this. First, if the Government really believes that education is the motor of future growth, then the best form of investment would be attracting the best graduates into the teaching profession. Any firm worth its salt these days would say it

is the worst form of false economy to settle for a second-best IT system rather than state of the art. The same argument applies to teachers, even though that means substantially better recruitment and retention incentives.

The theoretical point is that education may not matter as much to growth as some economists seem to think. In an excellent analysis of Britain's growth dilemma, Norman Redwood, a former member of the CBI Economic Situation Committee, says there is little historical evidence to suggest that greater worker effort or greater skill in applying new technology have had much impact on labour productivity. Since 1955, he notes, total output has risen more than 14 times as fast, but because the workforce is bigger and the total number of hours worked has increased, output per head has gone up only 11-fold.

"It is clearly absurd to think that workers are working 11 times as hard, sweating 11 times as much. Neither is it credible that they are now 11 times more skilled; in fact, the whole process of modernisation is widely regarded as one of deskilling, as the art of the craftsman has been replaced by the repetition of the production line worker."

Mr Redwood says that to understand the growth process we must look not at post-neo-classical endogenous growth theory but pre-neo-classical endogenous growth theory, and in particular David Ricardo's idea that the increase in labour productivity is due to machinery, not the effort and skill of the workforce.

Thus, long-term economic growth is determined by the long-term increase in the productive capacity of the economy, and that potential output is increased by the accumulation of capital.

Speaking at a conference organised by the Employment Policy Institute last week, John Morley, a senior adviser to the European Commission, produced figures showing that current levels of EU investment — around 17 per cent of GDP — are sufficient to allow Europe to grow by only a little over 2 per cent a year. In the early 1960s and 1970s, investment rates were much higher and so were growth rates.

What is more, Mr Morley has a nice graph showing the correlation between growth and employment.

If the key to higher levels of growth is to increase the capital stock and fixed invest-

ment, the 64,000 dollar question is how to increase investment. This is where the story comes back to the workings of the Chancellor's mind. There are two ways for a government to increase investment — persuade the private sector to invest more or invest more itself.

Taking the private sector first, easily the most important factor governing investment decisions is the likely rate of return. Put simply, firms are more likely to invest when demand for their goods is growing — and forecast to continue growing — than during periods of slack

or wildly gyrating demand. Mr Brown says that all of the macro-economic changes since the election make the achievement of high and stable levels of growth more likely.

Private-sector firms can hardly argue — as they did in the 1970s — that low profitability is acting as a brake on investment. The profit share in the 1990s is at historically high levels, yet the investment rate has not picked up. Fears of a return to boom-bust may have something to do with the reluctance to invest, but Mr Brown believes that the tax system encour-

aged dividend pay-outs at the expense of retention for investment. That was the rationale behind last year's corporate tax reform, which ended the dividend subsidy to pension funds.

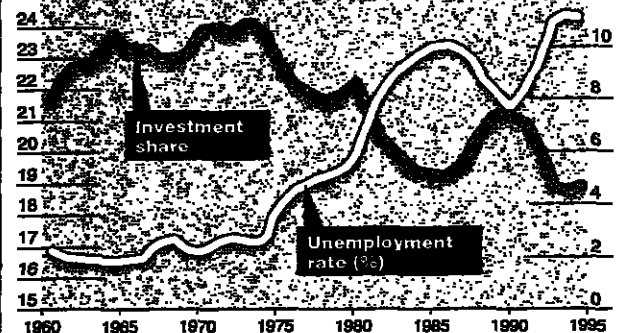
Finally, the Government can invest, which was the meat of last week's public spending announcement. Given the alarming fall in public-sector capital spending over the past two decades, it is perfectly sensible for the Government to double its net

investment over the next three years.

So, there we have it. The strategy is all about raising the long-term rate of growth through higher investment. Will it work? The answer is that it is too early to say, and certainly will not if the economy slides into recession as a result of monetary overkill or the knock-on effects of the Asian crisis. But the strategy does have an internal coherence and logic, even if bits of it are hard to stomach.

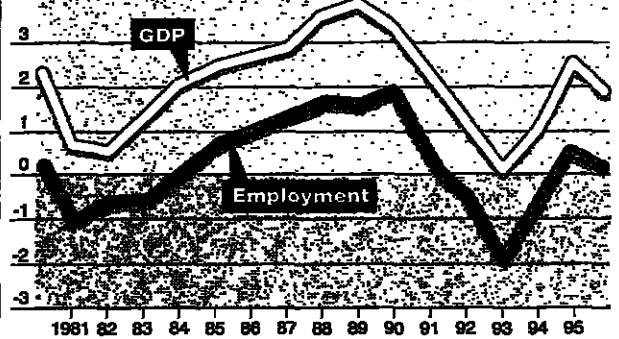
Input...

Investment share and unemployment rate — EU 15



...and output

Changes in GDP and employment — EU 15, 1980-96



Reasons to be cheerful if you're still with one of the old mutuals

Debate

Shay Ramalingam

IF 1997 was the year of demutualisation and the carpet-bagger, 1998 may be remembered as the year when the mutuals fought back. The largest remaining building society not only won a vote to remain mutual last year, but is in good shape to win again next month at its annual meeting, on July 23.

Members of the Nationwide who receive voting papers through their letterboxes over the next two weeks will again choose either to remain as "owners" of the mutual or receive a share pay-out potentially as low as £500, because joint account-holders and children are for the first time to be given shares.

In the past, conversion votes have been criticised for unfairness because members vote in their own, short-term interests and have little affinity with the long-term interests of the organisation.

Defenders of conversion argue that managers within mutuals face less pressure to remain efficient owing to the absence of capital-market scrutiny. But this argument has been undermined by economist Eugene Fama and Michael Jensen, who point out that the decision to close a savings account at a society "is a form of partial takeover or liquidation which deprives management of control over assets... It does not require a proxy fight, a tender offer or any other concerted bid".

In other words, savers can force management to offer a better service.

Indeed, far from being less efficient, mutuals are in many ways more efficient than their banking brethren.

In banks and building societies, typically involving greater investment in the equity market. Conversely, the building societies have an abundance of capital which they have used for share buy-backs and special dividends," he says.

More credibly critics of mutuality point to the fact that building societies have historically behaved like banks. Margins have not been lower at building societies,

ance funds such as Scottish Amicable can grow their capital base through access to the equity market, allowing more aggressive investment strategies — typically involving greater investment in the equity market. Conversely, the building societies have an abundance of capital which they have used for share buy-backs and special dividends," he says.

More credibly critics of mutuality point to the fact that building societies have historically behaved like banks. Margins have not been lower at building societies,

Building societies have an efficiency advantage which reduces the margin — the

spread between the interest rate offered to lenders over and above the interest rate offered to savers — by between 0.41 per cent and 0.75 per cent. Members therefore get a better deal.

Conversion does secure improved access to equity markets, but Rob Thomas of analyst SBC Warburg Dillon Read points out that while the demutualised life-assurance funds have expanded aggressively, converted building societies have not.

"Demutualised life assur-

ance funds have mirrored the profit-maximising style of the banks and, instead of returning gains to members, the societies have built up reserves.

The threat of demutualisation has created a market for membership rights. This has happened through pay-outs in the case of converts and better deals for members at the remaining societies. Margins at the Nationwide are at 1.49 per cent compared to 2.22 per cent at the Woolwich and 1.89 per cent at Northern

Rock. The spectre of demutualisation has thereby indirectly created some benefits by stirring the industry into action for the consumer.

On balance, there are few arguments against maintaining mutuality. The mutual culture has generated business value in those organisations primarily by gaining the trust of the consumer.

A survey by BBC Radio 4's Today Programme last month found that 44 per cent of its respondents trusted traditional societies, 29 per cent trusted high-street banks and only 8 per cent trusted the newly converted banks.

These results reflect the trend over the past three years towards massive gains in market share by the remaining mutuals — building societies have 23 per cent of the outstanding mortgage lending stock but accounted for 40 per cent of new lending over the last six months.

These figures support the notion that markets are social institutions. They cannot function without trust, reputation and branding. Trust in the traditional societies and distrust of the converts is therefore of significant value. The Nationwide looks as if it will keep its shareholder value-added reputation.

Shay Ramalingam is an independent economist.

Economics made easy

Will a minimum wage cost jobs? In theory it ought to. An economic textbook would say that if you raise the price of say, labour, the demand for it will fall. However, some economists say this isn't necessarily true at the low-paid end of the market.

Why should this be so? The real-life job market isn't like the perfectly competitive textbook example. Employers may be able to pay their workers below their productivity. If a minimum wage forces firms to raise pay rates, they will no longer be able to profit from exploiting their workforce, while the increase in pay will attract more people into employment. The employers' profits will be cut, but they won't make a loss.

What gives employers the upper hand? The classic textbook example is the one-firm town. With no other place to work, employees can't get a better deal by threatening to walk out. But there aren't many one-company towns left. More realistically, workers are unlikely to move straight away if the firms cut their wages — there are costs to searching for

The low-paid want a minimum wage, but some experts say it might cost them their jobs. Charlotte Denny explains

work. Some workers, women with children, for example, may have limited alternatives.

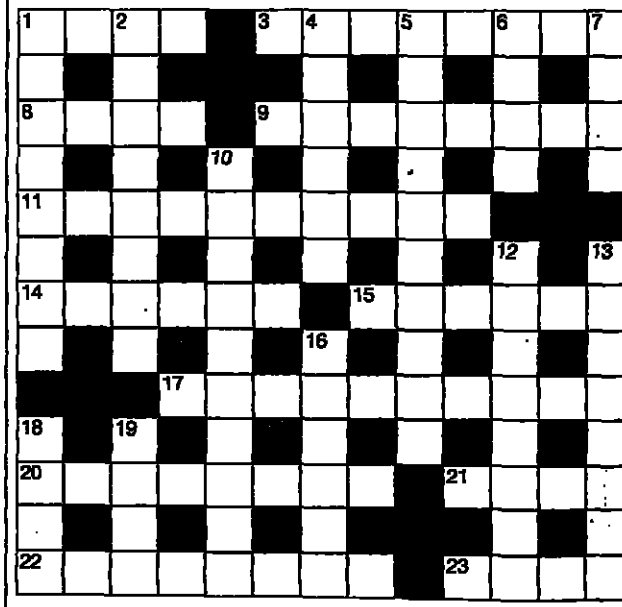
What evidence is there? An American study found that when minimum wages were increased in New Jersey, employment in the low-wage fast food industry increased, compared with neighbouring Pennsylvania, where the wage floor stayed the same. But other academics say the rise in employment was more likely to have been caused by a boom in New Jersey.

What about in Britain? British studies suggest that the abolition of the wages councils, which fixed minimum wages, did not result in a boom in employment, even though wages fell. Economists conclude that a low minimum wage might have little impact on employment levels.

What about other effects? If other workers win increases to maintain their pay differentials, interest rates could be increased, which in turn could cause job losses.

A small price to pay for reducing poverty? By itself the wage floor will not do much to lift families out of poverty. Most families on very low incomes have no one in work, while most low-wage workers are the second earner in their household. The biggest gains will be middle-income households. But without a pay floor firms can exploit in-work benefits, such as the Working Families Tax Credit, to screw down wages, knowing the state will pick up the bill.

Quick Crossword No. 8774



Across

- 1 Swelling — collision (4)
- 2 Goods and chattels (8)
- 3 Twilight (4)
- 4 Tacit (8)
- 5 Sewing (10)
- 6 Liquid measure (6)
- 7 All for (anag) (6)
- 8 Type of knot (5,5)
- 9 Person who goes to law (8)
- 10 Stockleg (4)
- 11 Roost for Christmas partridge? (4,4)
- 12 Stain (on landscape?) (4)

Down

- 1 Rallies (8)
- 2 Showing skill and control (8)
- 3 Fame (8)
- 4 Oil rig that met disaster (5,5)
- 5 Route (4)
- 6 American (4)
- 7 Illumination eg for sports ground (10)
- 8 Decisive or disapproving (8)

OLD FORTS
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Published by Guardian Newspapers Limited at 119 Farringdon Road, London EC1R 3ER, and at 164 Deansgate, Manchester M3 2SR. Printed at Westbury Press Ltd, 235 West Ferry Road, London E14 3BN, and at Trafford Park Printers, Ltd, 171 St. The-Duchess Road, Trafford Park, Manchester M17 1ST. Tel: 0161-832 3351/834 9717. Fax: 0161-832 3351/834 9717. Telex: 940000 G. Registered at the Post Office as a newspaper at the Post Office ISSN 0261-307

سكنا من الامم

In the acclaimed 12-page sports section



France 98
Reggie Boyz take the stage 14
Nigerians on the ball 16
Tunisia's tame Brazilian World Cup round-up 17
The preciousness of Michael Owen 18



Happy return
Headley recalled to the England colours 20



Speed king
Gebrselassie races to another record 24

The Guardian Sport

Monday June 15 1998 www.football.guardian.co.uk

France 98 the waiting is over



Flying the flag... an England supporter gets in some last-minute relaxation on the Mediterranean in Marseille yesterday before the tension really mounts for this afternoon's encounter with Tunisia

PHOTOGRAPH: SEAN SMITH

England strike out on the long road to Paris

David Lacey reports from Marseille where Glenn Hoddle tells his team they will win the World Cup

MARSEILLE can turn very cold very quickly and the Mistral has no favourites. England can afford a lukewarm opening to the World Cup in Stade Velodrome tonight provided they beat Tunisia. Any other result and the chill of apprehension will strike at English hearts.

Not that Glenn Hoddle's players are lacking in the cardiac department. On the contrary the England coach has suddenly gone quite Sir Alf Ramseyish by informing his squad that they will win the tournament.

"Glenn has sat us down and told us we're going to win this thing," said Alan Shearer yesterday. "He was 100 per cent certain. He believes we can do it and so do we. The preparation could not have been better and we'll have no excuses if things go wrong. We'll only have ourselves to blame."

"Our preparations have been right," Hoddle agreed after the squad trained at the stadium yesterday. "We just hope we get off to a good start. All we can ask of ourselves is that we give 100 per cent. We're totally focused, a 1-0 win will be enough, but it will be a tough game against a good Tunisian side."

Hoddle is likely to keep faith with Shearer and Teddy Sheringham up front, who between them have scored 17 goals in 14 games, but Michael Owen is expected to play an increasing

cannon roared briefly but eventually fired blanks.

Success in this World Cup will depend even more than usual on using the correct players at the right time. Start in fifth and the team will stall, cruise past. On the evidence of the first five days this will be a tournament of attacking speed and a sense of adventure with much demanded physically of midfielders and wing-backs. But the world-wise teams, such as Brazil, Italy, Germany, Holland, France, Argentina, Bulgaria and Romania, will surely ration their energies for the knockout stages.

This is something England will have to learn quickly. None of their players has appeared in a World Cup proper and although the likes of Shearer, Sheringham, Paul Ince, David Batty and Tony Adams know everything about pacing a 10-month season, even they still have to experience the intense mental efforts that will be demanded over the next four weeks, assuming England are in France that long.

Today's game is unlikely to offer many clues as to how far England may go. The encounter with Romania in Toulouse next Monday should be more revealing. For the moment it will be enough to end the mystery about team selection which has dogged everyone since England reached the finals. It will be much the same side that qualified in October by holding Italy 0-0 in Rome, except that Shearer will be in for Ian Wright and Paul Gascoigne's place taken by Paul Scholes with the possibility of Anderton for Beckham.

Scholes is hardly an alternative to Gascoigne in the sense of replacing like with like but remains the most attractive option for linking midfield and attack. With his cool head and alert responses, especially near goal, he could be England's combination of spark-plug and rotor arm.

This assumes, of course, that Scholes will play, but any other selection would be perverse. But if Anderton is fully fit and looking capable of the form he achieved under Terry Venables then there is a strong case for playing him. Certainly he will come into the picture sooner rather than later and Hoddle may still be planning to employ Beckham centrally.

For now, though, he may want to keep Beckham back, much as Brazil decided not to start Djalma against Scotland. The fitter Anderton gets, the more valuable the Beckham alternative may become.

ENGLAND (probable): Seaman; Southgate, Adams, Campbell; Anderton or Beckham, Ince, Batty, Le Tissier; Scholes; Sheringham, Shearer.

TUNISIA (probable): El Ouadi; Traouat; Thabet, Ghomash, Bedra, Glayton; Ghodmane, Chik, Bouayez, Sellimi, Ben Slimane.

Referee: M Okada (Japan).

« La Philosophie de World Cup »

In which two French café intellectuals chew over this week's World Cup moments. All conversations lubricated by the best loved premium beer in France.



Will football be coming home? Claude and the patron reveal the secret training regime in the England camp

Evening, Claude. What's yours?
My usual please, patron. And it's Clairvoyant Claude, if you don't mind.
Clairvoyant Claude? You'll have been at the England camp then.
That's right. Filling in for Mystic Meg.
So where's your crystal ball?
Don't ask.
Where the Scotsman put his rattle, eh? So what did you think of the English?
As it happens, I was most impressed. Glenn's put together a terrific team.
Oh yeah? A goofy goalkeeper with a naff moustache. Two camels in recovery at the back. A spindly-legged Liverpoolian and a ginger twit in midfield. A schoolboy striker. A karaoke crooner in the hole...
No, I'm talking about the coaching staff. Shamans, psychic surgeons, hypnotists, spoonbenders, astrologers, the Duchess of York's personal irrigator.
Claude, please! Keep your voice down.
Chief Sitting Bull.
Chief Sitting Bull?
Native American soul retrieval. The lads are getting in touch with their eternal essence. Then they explore their inner landscape in a care-and-share session under Vanessa Feltz. What, all of them?
10.30am: public apology workshop, honing their remorse skills. 11am: bonding. Ah, le vice anglais.
No, not bondage — bonding. Then on to the pitch.
Kickabout?
Yogic flying. Sal Campbell.
Tunisia's El Ouadi & William Donaldson

« Shamans, psychic surgeons, hypnotists »



crossword No. 8774

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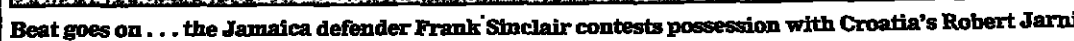
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Reggae unplugged

standable relish in what are troubled times.

If there is nothing pretty about Croatia, there is a curi-

[illegible]

Sunday, July 12 - St Denis (8pm) **ALL TIMES BST**

Lane for a further three years, but the club were not prepared to meet his demands. Southampton will give him a three-year deal.



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صبرنا من الامل

France 98

Group E: Holland 0 Belgium 0

Not famous so much as infamous

Richard Williams in Paris on men who bored for Belgium by blunting the Dutch

AS USUAL, the Dutch look like ending up by beating themselves. In their opening match, a neighbours' quarrel with Belgium, confirmed their technical quality, it also resurrected doubts about their inability to turn it into a result. After dominating the opposition for an hour and a half, they went away scratching their heads. For the Belgians, a goalless draw represented the fulfilment of their desires.

Match stats

	Bel	Hol
Possession	44%	56%
Attempts on target	3	5
Attempts off target	4	8
Goals	0	0
Offsides	2	14
Bookings	2	0
Sendings-off	0	1

to collective mediocrity. Nothing ventured, nothing lost — and nothing much to remember, either, from generations of Belgian national teams. They are playing for second place in the group.

"It's amazing," Ronald de Boer is said to have remarked after one of the qualifying matches. "They don't have a single class player." He tried to withdraw it last week, but you could see on Saturday what the Dutch felt about facing a team who arrived with no objective higher than destruction. Six, seven, even eight Belgians would mass behind the ball whenever the Dutch gained possession, which meant that they could afford to put three men on Marc Overmars.

They needed them, since Overmars had a game that reflected his season form in the English championship. On 22 minutes, Overmars was forced to withdraw his right-back Bertrand Cresson, whose morale had been demolished by the Arsenal winger.

The arrival in Cresson's place of Eric Deflandre presaged a flurry of trips and obstructions. The first, a crashing tackle from behind two minutes after he came on, might have resulted in an instant red card, had the officials been following instructions. It

took two further infringements within the next couple of minutes to persuade Pierluigi Collina to caution Deflandre.

But although Overmars continued to tease and taunt, first on the left and then, after the arrival of the similarly inclined 21-year-old Boudewijn Zenden in the second half, on the right, he could draw little meaningful response from his forwards. Patrick Kluivert showed moments of fleeting promise before getting himself sent off 10 minutes from the end, but Jimmy Hasselbaink started by mis-hitting Filip de Wilde's goal-line fumble after five minutes, never really flowed with his colleagues' tide and gave way after an hour to Dennis Bergkamp, who is still returning to fitness.

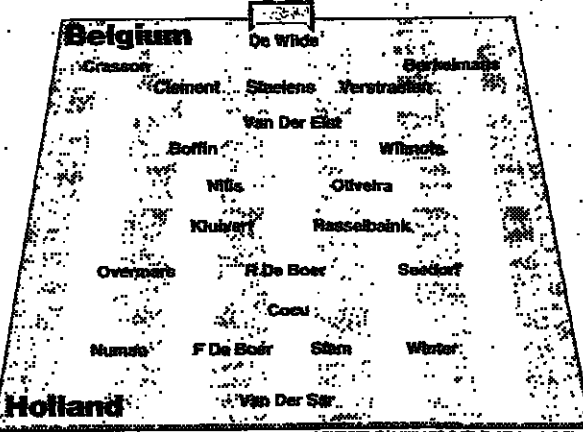
Kluivert's expulsion was the worst of several important mistakes by Collina, who allowed one of his assistants to persuade him that the Dutchman's petulant twitch of an elbow in the direction of Lorenzo Staelens was worthy of the ultimate sanction. His suspension puts extra pressure on Bergkamp to achieve a level of fitness enabling him to play a full 90 minutes. It would be no surprise to find Pierre van Hooijdonk, rather than Hasselbaink, alongside him against South Korea next Saturday.

The fluidity with which the Dutch exchanged places on the pitch was as absorbing as the game, which is not surprising since Guus Hiddink, their coach, is now advised by a triumvirate of Frank Rijkaard, Johan Neeskens and Ronald Koeman, three great exponents of total football. But Clarence Seedorf failed to recapture the form he showed for Real Madrid in the European Cup and Ronald de Boer never got ahead of his forwards in the way one might expect. Holland's best chance was made by Jaap Stam, Marc Overmars' new centre-back, whose 35-yard drive drew a panicked save from De Wilde.

As for the representatives of that endangered minority, Belgium's attacking players, Marc Wilmots and Danny Boffin, did their best in midfield. Wilmots almost scored on the stroke of half-time when a deflected cross hit him on the chest and forced a save from Edwin van der Sar. But Luis Oliveira and Luc Nilis, the two forwards, might as well have set up a table and chairs to watch the game. Belgium's game of cards for all the impact they made on the game.

Patrick Kluivert will be suspended for two matches for elbowing Lorenzo Staelens. Fifa said yesterday, Kluivert claimed he had been upset by a comment the Belgian had made.

SUBSTITUTIONS Holland: Bergkamp for Hasselbaink, 60min; Zenden for Seedorf, 65; Van der Sar for Overmars, 75. Belgium: Deflandre for Cresson, 22; E. Mpenza for Oliveira, 50. **START OFF** Holland: Kluivert. Belgium: Staelens, Deflandre. **REFEREE** P. Collina (Italy).



Dance of delight... Nigeria's goalkeeper Peter Rufai celebrates Sunday Oliseh's winning goal

PHOTOGRAPH: TOM JENNINGS

Group D: Nigeria 3 Spain 2

Hierro stuns Spain as Nigeria get into first gear

David Lacey



WITH each World Cup the possibility of an African nation winning the tournament or at least reaching the final becomes more feasible. Nigeria's exhilarating 3-2 victory over Spain in Nantes on Saturday proved a point made by themselves in the United States four years ago and by Cameroon in Italia 90. No longer is Africa just a warm-up act.

Having twice come from behind to beat Javier Clemente's experienced, skilful and well-organised Spanish side, a team considered to be worth more than an outside bet to triumph in France, the Nigerians will once more be the subjects of the sort of romantic speculation which followed their early progress in 1994.

Then a sweeping 3-0 win over Bulgaria in Dallas took everybody's breath away, but in the second phase they ran into Italy and a revived Roberto Baggio, losing 2-1 in Foxboro after extra-time.

So what are their chances now? It is too early to say. As their coach, Bora Milutinovic, remarked after Saturday's game: "This is only one step. We need a minimum of five points to go through. For the moment luck is with us."

Well, yes, luck did play a part. The fortuitous moment which turned the match arrived 17 minutes from the end when Spain were leading 2-1. Then Miguel Nadal and

Rafael Alkorta collided going for the ball and Nigeria suddenly found themselves in a broad avenue of space. After Garba Lawal had outpaced Ivan Campo on the left he seemed to waste the opportunity which Andoni Zubizarreta had well covered, but the Spain goalkeeper, over-anticipating and moving away from the near post, flung back a hand to block the ball and pushed it over the line.

If Spain flop in this tournament Zubizarreta will surely be their fall guy. Yet, after the force of Nigeria's equaliser, no one in the Stade de la Beaujoire was prepared for the stunning quality of their winning goal four minutes later.

Fernando Hierro met a long throw from the right with a powerful header, out of the penalty area but the ball fell to Sunday Oliseh, Nigeria's long-shot specialist, who scored with a thunderbolt from 30 yards, the ball clipping the left-hand post on its way in.

The individual quality of Nigeria's squad was always

going to be among the highest in the tournament. After all, their players are spread across Europe in a wide and cultured arc from the Iberian peninsula to Moscow and Asia Minor.

In 1994 doubts arose about Nigeria's temperament amid reports of dressing-room disputes and, ultimately, a revolt against their eccentric Dutch coach Clemens Westerhof. Here the experience of Milutinovic and the success he has had in bringing along such lesser lights as Costa Rica and the United States will be an important factor.

Clemente's natural caution may be held partly responsible for Spain's defeat. He played two defenders, Nadal and Hierro, in midfield and refused to bring on the in-form striker Fernando Morientes even after his team fell behind.

The way Spain began, however, neither formation nor substitutions seemed relevant. Within 10 seconds Raul had seen a shot saved one-handed by Peter Rufai and after four minutes the 20-

year-old Spanish striker produced a header which clipped the crossbar.

The 25-yard free-kick from Hierro which in the 20th minute caught Rufai badly positioned and brushed both Raul and the green-dreadlocked Taribo West on its way into

Match stats

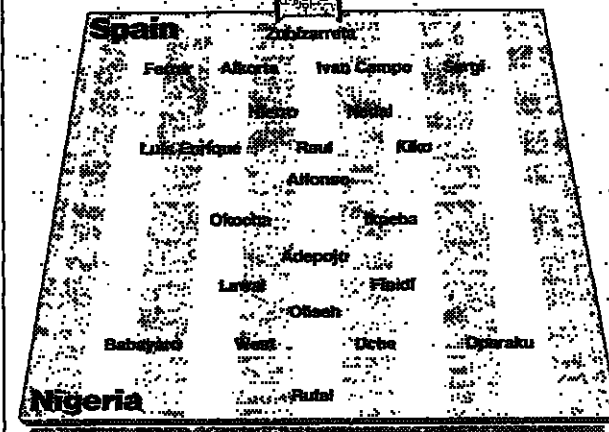
	Sp	Nige
Possession	52%	48%
Attempts on target	5	3
Attempts off target	6	5
Goals	2	3
Offsides	13	9
Bookings	0	0

the net was a logical consequence of Spain's impressive start. But four minutes later a corner produced a simple goal as Finidi George's cross dropped beyond Hierro for Mutiu Adegboye to head the scores level.

Still the day promised to be Spain's. No sooner had the second half begun than Raul sprinted past Mubi Oparaku to meet Hierro's long pass with an excellent left-foot volley past Rufai.

There ended the Spanish lesson. By the time another, similar chance fell to Raul the match was slipping away from them and Nigeria were full of the running which was no longer in Spain's legs. Raul sliced his shot wide, Oliseh's winner followed, and Jay-Jay Okocha finished the game taunting the exhausted bulls with his irrepressible skills.

SUBSTITUTIONS Nigeria: Yekini for Oparaku, 60min; Babangida for Iperona, 62; O. Oparaku for Lawal, 70. Spain: Amor for Ferrer, 64; Calzadilla for Nadal, 70; Etxebarria for Alonso, 78. **START OFF** Nigeria: Okocha. Spain: Amor, Campo, Nadal. **REFEREE** E. Baharmal (United States).



Group F: Germany v United States

Wary Germans wait on Ziege fitness test

David Harbord

THE underdogs have been biting back so far in this World Cup and the United States camp have at least been talking a good fight. "We feel we can beat all three teams in the group," said Alexi Lalas, a veteran of US 94.

But the Germans, who are hoping their wing-back Christian Ziege will have recovered from a fever in time for tonight's game in the Parc des Princes in Paris, are aware of the danger. "The matches here have shown that standards at the top of the game are getting closer and closer," said the German coach Berti Vogts. "You can't talk about small teams any more."

Ziege, who has been unable to take a full part in the squad's preparations at their training camp in the south of France in the past week, has now recovered but Vogts said yesterday: "We will wait until training and talk to the doctors. If he can't play we will have to make a few changes."

Ziege usually plays down the left flank with Jörg Heinrich on the right. But if he fails a fitness test this morning, Vogts may play Heinrich on the left and bring in Stefan Reuter on the right.

The German squad has an average age of nearly 30 but that is not likely to be a factor so early in the competition. In fact the wealth of experience could mean that they settle quicker than their opponents.

The United States expect Germany to attack from the kick-off. "The first 20 minutes

will be very important for them to establish they can put pressure on us and for us to establish we can stand the pressure," said US coach Steve Sampson said yesterday.

Vogts is likely to play Jürgen Klinsmann, his captain, in attack alongside Oliver Bierhoff, with Thomas Häßler and Andy Möller keeping them supplied. Olaf Thon will play sweeper, with Lothar Matthäus, who captained the 1990 World Cup-winning team left on the substitutes' bench.

The Germans have met — and beaten — the US twice in two friendlies in Chicago (4-3) and San Francisco (3-0) in 1993.

The three-times World Cup winners may have one of the most impressive records in the tournament's history but they are notoriously slow starters, which will give the US hope. "There is no pressure on us. We play well in the underdogs' role," said Lalas. "Everybody thinks Yugoslavia and Germany are the favourites in the group. That is fine with us."

But Sampson was more realistic. "There's a way we can defend for 90 minutes against Germany," he said. "It's very important that we play intelligently. Everything is in place for us to play well. It will be a physical and hard-fought game."

Sampson said he had told his players who would be starting today, but declined to reveal the line-up.

GERMANY (probable): Köpcke; Thon, Koller, Wörnitz, Heinrich, Möller; Häßler, Jeremies, Ziege, Klinsmann, Berndt. **UNITED STATES** (probable): Ketterer; Regis, Pope, Burns, Dooley, Ramos, Feyere, Deering, Jones, Heidick, Synedra.

Clogger

Pick of the World Cup week

Player of the week Marcelo Salas, whose brace of goals for Chile should have humbled the Italians were it not for the opening week's most absurd refereeing decision.

Predictable event of the week You didn't have to be a Mystic Meg to foresee the Scottish defeat in unfortunate circumstances. Less predictable was the period of 44 minutes that passed before a red card was shown — but not that it came when Bulgaria met Paraguay.

Most theatrical dive Kevin "Swallow" Gallacher looked a surefire winner for going down like a sack of spuds in the penalty area against Brazil — until Belgium's Lorenzo Staelens got Patrick Kluivert sent off for jabbing him in the ribs.

Commentator's classic A cracking first week for Kevin Keegan, who set the standard for all other expert summarisers after Roberto Baggio's match-saving penalty against Chile: "It takes great courage to do that... actually courage isn't really the right word at this level... it's guts."

Best comment The Chelsea supporters' "no-no-no-no-no" which made up for what it lacked in imagination with directness and, crucially at this level, audibility.

Shock of the week The sensible refraining (to begin with, anyway) of goalkeeping guru Not Zuzubizarreta's near-post flick that gave Nigeria an equaliser, but the free-kick taken by Jose Luis Chilavert for Paraguay against Bulgaria which so nearly brought a state-of-the-art goal.

Most over-the-top moment Sean Connery, Rod Stewart and the rest of the Scottish were much in evidence in Paris on Wednesday, cheering on their boys (and doing their best to avoid Stan Collymore).

Most rose-tinted spectacle Definitely Craig Brown's "The best team definitely won but I thought we had a great chance not to lose!"

Worst blarney of the week Austria's Toni Polster offered a welcome reminder of the dark days of the Seventies, when his European footballer worth his salt wore his hair above the collar and ever you knew the value of a goalless draw.

Most transparent moment of joy He Seok Ju — sent off just one minute after giving South Korea the lead against Mexico.

Best party scene Naturally "El Blando" (above) — particularly effective with his colour of your national flag. But beware of imitations.

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France 98

Clayton se to dance h own samb

Martin Thorpe

the scores

NOKIA

Hairy moments . . . Colombia's captain Carlos Valderrama, front, and his team-mates warm up for their first match against Romania today as a policeman looks on

But here in France Asprilla pointed to his injury and said: "It's okay." Then a man in dark glasses ushered him on to the team bus. Aristizabal was already on it.

Brown reported yesterday that he has no problems in his squad, either physical or disciplinary, and the Scots will fly to Bordeaux this morning with confidence. High that they can register a win they need after their defeat by Brazil in the opening game.

If Tunisia score,
you may have to
resort to
underarm tactics.

A hand-drawn diagram consisting of a large circle with a horizontal line through its center. Inside the circle is a can of 'SURE Sport' deodorant. A curved arrow originates from the bottom of the text box above and points towards the target circle. Several 'X' marks are scattered around the diagram, and a downward-pointing arrow is on the right side.

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France 98



Mad about the boy

Mature beyond his years or a virtual-reality image churned out by football's money-spinning production line? **Ian Ross** sounds out opinion on England's 18-year-old prodigy, Michael Owen

REQUESTS for an audience with Michael Owen are met with a polite but firm refusal these days. The boy has made it: at the tender age of 18 he is big time and headed for the biggest of stages. The media interest in the kid with the golden boots is such that Liverpool's Steve Heighway has had to draft a standard letter of refusal, explaining precisely why interviews, public appearances, photocalls and the like are being kept down to a bare minimum.

Rather cute really that Owen — £10,000 a week and the Professional Footballers' Association Young Player of the Year — is still being shielded and shepherded by his club's Director of Youth Football, rather cute and rather reassuring. Not that the youngest player to score

for England this century could be accused of being afflicted by verbal diarrhoea when actually cornered by the men with the notebooks.

No, Owen the raconteur is frustratingly like Owen the striker — crisp, efficient and very much to the point. To coin a cliché so beloved of one of Owen's illustrious Anfield predecessors, Kenny Dalglish, he does prefer to let his boots do the talking.

To dust down another hackneyed phrase, thankfully for both club and country when he chooses to do so, the sound can be deafening and the effect quite devastating.

"Occasionally a unique talent comes along," says the Birmingham City manager Trevor Francis. "English football is very fortunate to have that sort of unique talent in the form of Michael Owen. We are talking about real ability here, a player who crops up only once or twice in a genera-

tion. Quite simply he is the best English striker at the moment. Yes, better even than Alan Shearer."

Praise indeed but in order to deliver that verdict, Francis was required to elbow his way to the front of a bustling queue of learned and respected footballing ideologists who similarly believe Owen to be worthy of the very highest praise.

From Paraguay to Tunisia, the name on the lips of those invited to select world football's next big thing is Michael Owen: they have all seen the glorious game's future and it's the home-loving, all-smiling kid with the Scouse accent. The only person who actually has a bad word for Owen is Owen himself. Very much like that other legendary Liverpool goalscorer Ian Rush, Saint Michael can be self-critical to the point of masochism. "He's, handling things

The making of a star

Steve Croxall, Dec 20, 1979

Age 18 Scores 57 goals in a season for

Doncaster Rovers, breaking Ian Rush's record

Age 19 Signed by Liverpool

Age 20 Attends the FA's Centre of Excellence at Millers

Age 21 Signs as a first-year £150,000 per week

Age 22 Signs professional contract with Liverpool

Age 23 Wins 1987 FA Cup with Liverpool

Age 24 Wins 1988 FA Cup with Liverpool

Age 25 Wins 1989 FA Cup with Liverpool

Age 26 Wins 1990 FA Cup with Liverpool

Age 27 Wins 1991 FA Cup with Liverpool

Age 28 Wins 1992 FA Cup with Liverpool

Age 29 Wins 1993 FA Cup with Liverpool

Age 30 Wins 1994 FA Cup with Liverpool

Age 31 Wins 1995 FA Cup with Liverpool

Age 32 Wins 1996 FA Cup with Liverpool

Age 33 Wins 1997 FA Cup with Liverpool

Age 34 Wins 1998 FA Cup with Liverpool

Age 35 Wins 1999 FA Cup with Liverpool

Age 36 Wins 2000 FA Cup with Liverpool

Age 37 Wins 2001 FA Cup with Liverpool

Age 38 Wins 2002 FA Cup with Liverpool

Age 39 Wins 2003 FA Cup with Liverpool

Age 40 Wins 2004 FA Cup with Liverpool

Age 41 Wins 2005 FA Cup with Liverpool

Age 42 Wins 2006 FA Cup with Liverpool

Age 43 Wins 2007 FA Cup with Liverpool

Age 44 Wins 2008 FA Cup with Liverpool

Age 45 Wins 2009 FA Cup with Liverpool

Age 46 Wins 2010 FA Cup with Liverpool

Age 47 Wins 2011 FA Cup with Liverpool

Age 48 Wins 2012 FA Cup with Liverpool

Age 49 Wins 2013 FA Cup with Liverpool

Age 50 Wins 2014 FA Cup with Liverpool

Age 51 Wins 2015 FA Cup with Liverpool

Age 52 Wins 2016 FA Cup with Liverpool

Age 53 Wins 2017 FA Cup with Liverpool

Age 54 Wins 2018 FA Cup with Liverpool

Age 55 Wins 2019 FA Cup with Liverpool

Age 56 Wins 2020 FA Cup with Liverpool

Age 57 Wins 2021 FA Cup with Liverpool

Age 58 Wins 2022 FA Cup with Liverpool

Age 59 Wins 2023 FA Cup with Liverpool

Age 60 Wins 2024 FA Cup with Liverpool

Age 61 Wins 2025 FA Cup with Liverpool

Age 62 Wins 2026 FA Cup with Liverpool

Age 63 Wins 2027 FA Cup with Liverpool

Age 64 Wins 2028 FA Cup with Liverpool

Age 65 Wins 2029 FA Cup with Liverpool

Age 66 Wins 2030 FA Cup with Liverpool

"really well, you know," says Rush. "He's smart out on the pitch and probably even smarter away from it. He hasn't bragged about what he has already achieved and, probably more importantly, he hasn't made any rash promises about what he intends to achieve in the years ahead."

"He comes across as a really sensible, level-headed individual. Everyone says he is wise beyond his years and, while there is some truth to that, he possibly stands out because so

many other players in his age bracket have let themselves down recently."

Owen is so clean-cut, so pure, that he almost glints in the sunlight. He's every teenage girl's ideal pin-up, every father's dream son, every mother's oversized baby and every boy's perfect brother. If we didn't know better, it would be easy to believe he hadn't been conceived, carried and born in the traditional manner but downloaded from a web site — "Perfect Children for Proud Parents".

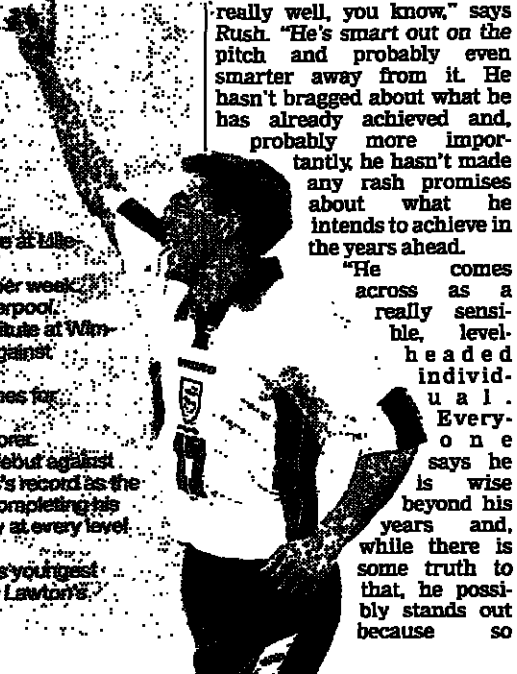
He has probably never savoured a greasy half-cooked kebab at three o'clock in the morning, never met Chris Evans or Danny Baker and never consumed sufficient alcohol to blur his vision and dull his senses. He sounds positively drab but he is fit, poised for greatness and, upon his narrow trail shoulders, will quite possibly come to

rest the expectations of an entire nation over the next few weeks.

"It is unbelievable the way things have panned out for me," says Owen. "It has happened a lot quicker than I dreamed of or expected. But I constantly put pressure on myself to do better. I set myself high standards and am very disappointed if I do not reach those standards."

If Glenn Hoddle's unremarkable assessment that Paul Gascoigne was too party and shop-soiled to make a meaningful contribution to the cause was supported by two out of three sane England fans, his curious assertion that Owen could not be considered a natural goalscorer was shared by no one.

"England have got to play Michael, he is their best player and the top footballer in this country," says the Manchester City manager Joe Royle, who spent several



Owen v Sheringham

...the record of 18 goals in a season for a Liverpool player. Owen's goal was the first of his career for the club. He scored it in the 10th minute of the match. The goal was a header from a cross by Steve McManis. Owen's goal was the first of his career for the club. He scored it in the 10th minute of the match. The goal was a header from a cross by Steve McManis.

online

Every Thursday in the

The Guardian

Way back when ...



Rocky rolled over ... Graziano feels Zale force in Newark

Frank Keating recalls the night when boxing recoiled at the savagery of Zale-Rocky III

A CENTURY of prize-fighting has been speckled with a handful of "serial" contests, as opposed to single fights, which have been indelibly impressed in the romance of the cruel game. Think of Dempsey-Turney, Louis-Schmeling, Robinson-Basillo, Ali-Liston, Leonard-Duran for epic twin-set encounters which the memory somehow compresses into single sagas. However, history's most overwhelming resonant fights have probably been

three-act operas — Muhammad Ali against Joe Frazier, for instance, and Rocky Graziano against Tony Zale. Greybeards of the ringside fancy will tell you that Graziano and Zale's tripartite turmoils remain unmatched for savagely competitive savagery and no-love-lost defiance. At 1-1 after two bouts for the world middleweight championship in 1946 and 1947, the third and deciding contest took place 50 years ago, on June 10 1948, at the Ruppert Stadium, Newark, New Jersey.

The son of Polish immigrants who had settled in Gary, Indiana, Zale's real name was Anthony Florian Zaleski. Before the war he had been a steelworker and a noted Golden Gloves amateur representing his local YMCA. He had enlisted and had a "good" war in the US Navy Coastguard

in the Pacific. On demob in 1945, he was 28, but claimed the middleweight professional championship.

Graziano was from New York's East Side and had been discharged "honourably" from the US Army for consistently going AWOL. His real name was Thomas Rocco Barbella, and at 21, after one of many court cases for minor hoodlum activity, the prosecuting policeman forecast: "Within 10 years he'll be on Death Row in Sing-Sing." In the New York rings, his dauntless and heavy-punching buzz-saw style, as well as his carefree personality, thrilled the crowd. Rocky was the personification of the "all-action crowd pleaser".

At Yankee Stadium in September 1948 more than 40,000 paid \$250,000 to see Zale v Graziano I. The Associated Press began its blow-by-blow ringside wire account: "Round 1: Graziano ran out and at once landed a hard left hook to the chin and then staggered Zale with a smashing overhand right. Zale held after being tagged with another right. Zale then crossed a ripping right to the chin. Zale now drove a fierce left to the face, then a vicious right. In return he took a severe right full in the face from Graziano ..."

And so it continued, almost 20 minutes of breathtaking, tit-for-tat fury. Zale won in the sixth after "a solar plexus blow of stunning power which spun Rocky around like a top". The return was held the following July in Chicago Stadium, watched by a then record

indoor crowd of 19,547. After another donnybrook of seething intensity it was Graziano who prevailed out of the jaws of defeat — again in the sixth — when, as the winner was to recall graphically in his own classic best-selling memoir *Somebody Up There Likes Me* (Hammond & Hammond, 1956): "I was going to kill that stinking rat bastard and I hit him full both my fists go numb ... I'm stoving his head in and punching his guts out. I don't even know any more if it's a cop or a guard or someone who's ratted on me or Tony Zale or who".

Graziano was duly declared champion and as the throng joyously poured through the ropes the new champ grabs a radio reporter's microphone and famously hollered all the way back to New York's East Side: "Hey Ma, your bad boy's done good, at last!"

Eleven months later, the decider, in front of 22,000, had an unprecedented ringside area of seven rows roped off for the press and radio. The new champion, 12-5 favourite, forecast another "war" — "this ain't a boxing match, and if there weren't a referee, one of us will end up dead".

Watching the three fights again on film, fuzzy monochrome footage shot from a distance, you still find yourself covering and wincing at the utter intensity of the mayhem. But with no actual-ity sound effects you do not hear the scream of outraged pain Graziano apparently uttered when taking Zale's very first shot, a wicked, ram-

rod left into the bread basket. By all accounts, the vengeful blow punctured the New Yorker's will and although he rallied gamely in desperate spurts, generally the icy Zale gave him a pasting through to the third round and when, according to Peter Walker's compelling *Men of Steel* (Robson, 1983): "Graziano was clearly out on his feet and Zale teed off with a right-left combination to the chin and the New Yorker went down as if shot, to be counted out spread-eagled on the canvas".

In his book, Graziano gave best. "I took a fantastic beating. When I was felled, it was like the ground exploded up and hit me in the stomach. The ring lights spin in a fast circle, then dim down to a little spot like through the end of a telescope. There was a big plane just then flying over the stadium and not making any noise, but just its little red and green lights blinking off and on."

By the September, Zale had lost the title to France's Marcel Cerdan. He retired to a successful Chicago motor business and a lifetime of good works for Catholic youth groups in the city. "What endures for Tony," said one citation, "is the notion of what a fighter's life should be — excess only in work, adherence to religion, regimen, sacrifice, stoicism."

Graziano became a much-loved millionaire and "personality". Paul Newman played him in his Hollywood biopic. Before he died in 1999, he summed up his life: "Half the time I didn't know what I was doing, except I was doing great."

صوتنا من الداخل

Give us more of the crash, bang, wallop

FAIR GAME

Julie Welch

THE governing body of Formula One is investigating how to increase the possibility that, one of these days, a racing car might overtake another. This is welcome news for the non-partisan viewer, for whom a grand prix can present a spectacle akin to watching asparagus grow, only not so heart-stopping.

The Fia will, no doubt, come up with something worthy but dull. It will consist of making minute changes to the undersides and will be effective for two races. After that, the designers will suss out what is going on and work out new modifications, so that it is impossible for anyone to overtake anyone else again.

At that point the only way forward will be to make the procession itself more interesting, perhaps with decorated floats and a steel band. Or they could take a leaf out of the World Wrestling Federation and have the drivers change their names to those of popular hate objects such as Vat Inspector and Unlicensed Vehicle Clamper. This would not solve the overtaking problem but would amuse spectators when gearboxes caught fire.

A bit of private enterprise was shown by Jacques Villeneuve when he attempted to lead the Canadian Grand Prix by skidding past Giancarlo Fisichella's Benetton and taking a short cut through the gravel trap. The idea deserves further attention. With a bit of imagination a course designer could come up with several compulsory and hazardous overtaking points around the circuit. These might feature water for aqua-planing, a Hickstead-style Irish Bank, a replica of the junction of the M11 where it joins the M25, and a white van, with "DRAIN CONTROL" painted on its side, shooting out from a concealed exit. Michael Schumacher may care to take on that job once he has tired of winning the championship.

A further improvement would be to introduce a series of natural driving conditions guaranteed to invoke naked rage and subsequent loss of control, like forcing the leaders to follow, for several laps, a B-reg Volvo with a "Baby On Board" sticker on its rear window. Television cameras would then be trained on these points at all times, cutting out all that relentless footage of Damon Hill driving round in seventh place, interspersed with sporadic shots of some stationary, dented vehicle with smoke coming out of its orifices and one tyre mangled.

A bonus in Canada for everyone not connected with Williams was that, on rejoining the circuit, Villeneuve got it in the bumper from Esteban

Tuero's Minardi. After all, Formula One is just like the Boat Race in that you only really watch it because one of the crews may sink. While no one wishes injury or worse on grand prix drivers, the sight of pile-ups involving someone else's hugely expensive cars is a basic human need, like food and shelter.

There is also the pleasure of being able to tell your grandchildren that you witnessed one of the great sporting disasters of our time, like the year the starter cocked up the Grand National. While the charge into the first corner in Montreuil could not match Aintree for chaos and futility, it certainly rated high on the fiasco scale, thanks to Alexander Wurz.

After swerving to avoid Mika Hakkinen, he lived out every motorist's secret fantasy: this entails having a car which, by pressing a button conveniently located under the dashboard, can get past a traffic jam simply by achieving flight. Wurz may well have hit on a winning formula, though he will need to sort out a few teething troubles, like not landing back on the track vertically.

Racing drivers are very laid-back. If they get annoyed, they show it by taking off their helmets, counting to 10 and then putting them back on again. Sometimes, as when he is really really mad at Schumacher, Hill wags his finger as well. Thus, after the first pile-up in Montreuil, and instead of waving their arms around angrily and taking down everyone else's insurance details, everyone simply climbed out, popped back to the garage and drove out another car they had made earlier, as if they were filming a cookery programme.

Even more was the incident in which Schumacher emerged from a pit stop to force Heinz-Harald Frentzen off the road. The suspicion that Schumacher is a stranger to normal human emotion was borne out by his subsequent explanation that he failed to see Frentzen. This is the sort of excuse that if trotted out in court will merit a bored sigh from the JP and a hefty endorsement. Fortunately for the many well-wishers of Ferrari, the stewards took the view that since Frentzen's car was cunningly camouflaged in bright red, Schumacher's sudden, temporary myopia was entirely excusable.

OTHER drivers are now not only resigned to Schumacher's supremacy but appear almost grovelling in their praise. Last week Eddie Irvine described him as easily the best driver in the world. The attitude recalls that of National Service recruits who after several weeks of being bullied and humiliated, come to love their sergeant-major. Schumacher now seems to have developed god-like powers of organising things so that everyone, except him, spins off.

Many may feel that his 10-second penalty in Montreuil was punishment enough, but others wish stewards would be more inventive, and that next time he transgresses he will be required to drive the rest of the race with a labrador and three fighting school kids in the back.

Other precocious World Cup talents



Pelé

Brazil 1958
Long before his first appearance in the World Cup finals as a 17-year-old in 1958, great things had been expected. A year earlier, on the biggest stage back home, the Maracanã against arch rivals Argentina, he came on as a substitute, scored in this and both his next two internationals, and was the subject of excited whispers when Brazil arrived in Sweden for the finals.

A cautious manager kept him out of the first two games, preferring the similarly young and talented José Altafini, who scored two fine goals against Austria but was dropped after the 0-0 draw with England. In came Pelé and Garrincha to help beat the USSR 2-0. Pelé hit a post within two minutes, scored the only goal of the quarter-final against Wales, a left-footed in the semi and two goals in the final. Brazil won the World Cup for the first time.

He had no trouble living up to such a dazzling start, despite injuries in both the next two World Cups. In 1970 he helped orchestrate one of the greatest forward lines of all time as Brazil won the Cup again, then retired after scoring 77 goals in 82 official internationals. Only Maradona (who was left out of the 1978 finals at the age of 17) has ever come close.



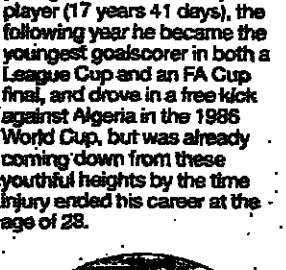
Norman Whiteside

Northern Ireland 1982
Billy Bingham had no qualms about giving a first cap to the strapping 17-year-old who'd played only two League matches for Manchester United. Big Norman should have had a penalty in his first international and generally looked the part in all the others as the Irish came within a single match of the semi-finals. The youngest ever World Cup player (17 years 41 days), the following year he became the youngest goalscorer in both a League Cup and an FA Cup final, and drove in a free kick against Algeria in the 1986 World Cup, but was already coming down from these youthful heights by the time injury ended his career at the age of 28.



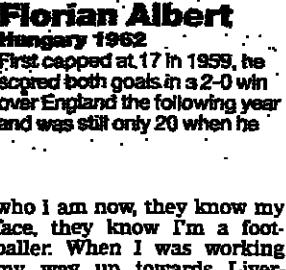
Giuseppe Bergomi

Italy 1982
Sporting a moustache to make himself look older and meesier, so nervous at the age of 18 that Enzo Bearzot used him in the famous match against Brazil, he later marked Karl-Heinz Rummenigge out of the first to become the youngest World Cup winner since Pelé. A purely defensive right back or stopper but one of the best, he's been captain of Inter throughout the 1990s and led the national team in Italia 90. Left out of the 1994 finals, he's back in the squad for France 98 at the age of 34.



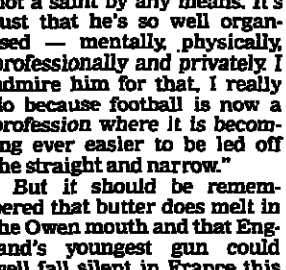
Franz Beckenbauer

West Germany 1966
First capped just after his 20th birthday, he was already the complete attacking half-back when he came to England at the end of that season. Of his first goals in the World Cup, "I was scored after running through on the goalkeeper, and finishing with cold assurance."



Mario Kempes

Argentina 1978
In 1974, 19-year-old Kempes scored twice against England at Wembley only to sink without trace in the World Cup finals the following month. Despite playing in all of Argentina's six matches, they won only one, against Chile, he was virtually anonymous. Four years later it was a different story. His six goals, including two in the first, made him the tournament's leading scorer and won Argentina the Cup for the first time.



Florian Albert

Hungary 1952
First capped at 17 in 1959, he scored both goals in a 2-0 win over England the following year and was still only 20 when he



Taking off... Owen on his England debut against Chile, above, and being congratulated after scoring his first international goal against Morocco, below



Back to back... Owen and his prospective England strike partner Alan Shearer relaxing on the golf course, left, and during training in France last week



Owen v Sheringham

Year	Goals	Assists
1997-98	18	9
1996-97	15	11
1995-96	10	11
1994-95	10	11
1993-94	10	11
1992-93	10	11
1991-92	10	11
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1595-96	10	11
1594-95	10	11
1593-94	10	11
1592-93	10	11
1591-92	10	11
1590-91	10	11
1589-90	10	11
1588-89	10	11
1587-88	10	11
1586-87	10	11

Racing

Godolphin fight back

Graham Rock

GODOLPHIN had mixed luck at the Derby meeting with Silver Patriarch in the Coronation Cup and Bahr held by Shalhouth in the Oaks, but hopes are high at the yard that those two runners-up can re-establish their reputations at Royal Ascot this week.

Both horses have recovered from their exertions over the Derby course and are in good form on the Newmarket gallops. The Godolphin filly is expected to line up for the Ribblesdale Stakes on Thursday, while Silver Patriarch is to race in the Hardwicke Stakes the following afternoon.

"They have taken their races really well, and the plan is to run if they are 100 per cent on the day," said Simon Crisford, the Godolphin manager. Intikhab, who romped away with the Dromedary Stakes by five lengths on Derby day, will be the team's principal hope tomorrow in the Queen Anne Stakes.

He should not be inconvenienced by the ground, which is officially soft following substantial rain over the week-

end; three-quarters of an inch fell on Saturday, and more yesterday.

One absentee tomorrow will be the 2,000 Guineas runner-up Lend A Hand, who was due to contest the St James's Palace Stakes, but who will now miss the Group One race because of coughing.

Mark Johnston now intends to run Lend A Hand in the Berlin-Brandenburg Trophy at the Hoppertarten on July 12 before returning his colt to the championship arena in this country for the Sussex Stakes at Glorious Goodwood.

Victory Note, the ante-post favourite for the St James's Palace Stakes, pleased in a gallop at Manton on Saturday morning. "He had a good blow out. He was moving great, is 100 per cent and raring to go," said a stable spokesman.

Having won the Greenham Stakes on testing ground, Victory Note will not be inconvenienced by the going, and neither should Dr Fong, who was well backed from 8-1 to 5-1 over the weekend having been reported "in good form" by Henry Cecil.

Dr Fong is a definite starter, but Cecil might have a reduced team this week be-



Spot the winner... Radar is clear of his rivals at Sandown on Saturday

PHOTOGRAPH BY JULIAN HERBERT/ALLSPORT

cause several of his fancied contenders are best on a fast surface. "I've got a lot of runners, but if it gets too wet, some of them won't run," he said.

Cecil's stable jockey Kieren Fallon will be back in action

tomorrow, riding work at Newmarket before taking some attractive rides on the opening day of the Royal meeting.

The champion injured a knee on Thursday and has made a good recovery. He was

hoping to resume at Windsor this evening, but his intended mounts were withdrawn.

Ladbroke and Hill's have opened their book on Thursday's Ascot Gold Cup. Persian Punch is the favourite with both firms for the race with

Ladbroke offering 4-1 against Hill's 9-1. The biggest discrepancy between the two lists is for Three Cheers; Hill's have made John Gosden's stayer second favourite at 7-1, while Ladbroke offer a more pessimistic 12-1.

Pontefract tonight

GRAHAM ROCK	TOP FORM
6.45 Stearn's Dervish	Salmon
7.15 Sky Mountain	Sky Mountain
7.45 Taro	Taro
8.15 Black Ice Boy	Black Ice Boy
8.45 Jeffery Annotated	Jeffery Annotated
9.15 Barstake	Barstake

Left-handed, undulating course of 2m with run-in of just over 2f. Pleasant on starting.

Gallop, heavy. 8. Inception Stm. 9. Donkey blinks. Drums: High numbers best at up to 1m. Seven day winners: None. Stalled first time: 9.15 Jackkin. Visited: None.

6.45 TATTERSALLS NYO AUCTION

FLIES STAKES 2YO
6f £3,615 (11 declared)

1(1)	Parus (1) 5-5	Don. McIlwain
2(4)	5.500000 (1) 5-5	Don. McIlwain
3(1)	5.500000 (1) 5-5	Don. McIlwain
4(1)	5.500000 (1) 5-5	Don. McIlwain
5(1)	5.500000 (1) 5-5	Don. McIlwain
6(1)	5.500000 (1) 5-5	Don. McIlwain
7(1)	5.500000 (1) 5-5	Don. McIlwain
8(1)	5.500000 (1) 5-5	Don. McIlwain
9(1)	5.500000 (1) 5-5	Don. McIlwain
10(1)	5.500000 (1) 5-5	Don. McIlwain

7.15 BRECH SELLING STAKES 3YO

1m £2,469 (11 declared)

1(1)	0.000000 (1) 5-5	Don. McIlwain
2(1)	0.000000 (1) 5-5	Don. McIlwain
3(1)	0.000000 (1) 5-5	Don. McIlwain
4(1)	0.000000 (1) 5-5	Don. McIlwain
5(1)	0.000000 (1) 5-5	Don. McIlwain
6(1)	0.000000 (1) 5-5	Don. McIlwain
7(1)	0.000000 (1) 5-5	Don. McIlwain
8(1)	0.000000 (1) 5-5	Don. McIlwain
9(1)	0.000000 (1) 5-5	Don. McIlwain
10(1)	0.000000 (1) 5-5	Don. McIlwain

Windsor tonight

GRAHAM ROCK	TOP FORM
6.30 Paddy Mills	Lady Carbone
7.00 Whitewash's Right	Whitewash's Right
7.30 Acacia Lyons (trap)	Acacia Lyons
8.00 Kestrelway	Kestrelway
8.30 Paddy's Joy	Paddy's Joy
9.00 Carrell	Carrell

Figure-eight track of 11m, though only right-hand turns occur in races up to 1m/200yds. Virtually straight 5f & 8f tracks.

Gallop: Good to soft. 5f & 8f tracks. Drums: High numbers best in sprint. Seven day winners: 8.30 Capella. Stalled first time: 6.30 Ebony Beaver, 9.00 Broughtons. Visited: None.

6.30 SELLING STAKES 2YO

FLIES STAKES 2YO
6f £2,304 (13 declared)

1(1)	0.000000 (1) 5-5	Don. McIlwain
2(1)	0.000000 (1) 5-5	Don. McIlwain
3(1)	0.000000 (1) 5-5	Don. McIlwain
4(1)	0.000000 (1) 5-5	Don. McIlwain
5(1)	0.000000 (1) 5-5	Don. McIlwain
6(1)	0.000000 (1) 5-5	Don. McIlwain
7(1)	0.000000 (1) 5-5	Don. McIlwain
8(1)	0.000000 (1) 5-5	Don. McIlwain
9(1)	0.000000 (1) 5-5	Don. McIlwain
10(1)	0.000000 (1) 5-5	Don. McIlwain

7.00 NEWTON HANDICAP

1m £3,371 (13 declared)

1(1)	0.000000 (1) 5-5	Don. McIlwain
2(1)	0.000000 (1) 5-5	Don. McIlwain
3(1)	0.000000 (1) 5-5	Don. McIlwain
4(1)	0.000000 (1) 5-5	Don. McIlwain
5(1)	0.000000 (1) 5-5	Don. McIlwain
6(1)	0.000000 (1) 5-5	Don. McIlwain
7(1)	0.000000 (1) 5-5	Don. McIlwain
8(1)	0.000000 (1) 5-5	Don. McIlwain
9(1)	0.000000 (1) 5-5	Don. McIlwain
10(1)	0.000000 (1) 5-5	Don. McIlwain

7.30 RESOURCES HANDICAP 3YO

1m £2,359 (9 declared)

1(1)	0.000000 (1) 5-5	Don. McIlwain
2(1)	0.000000 (1) 5-5	Don. McIlwain
3(1)	0.000000 (1) 5-5	Don. McIlwain
4(1)	0.000000 (1) 5-5	Don. McIlwain
5(1)	0.000000 (1) 5-5	Don. McIlwain
6(1)	0.000000 (1) 5-5	Don. McIlwain
7(1)	0.000000 (1) 5-5	Don. McIlwain
8(1)	0.000000 (1) 5-5	Don. McIlwain
9(1)	0.000000 (1) 5-5	Don. McIlwain

KEEPING TRACK

0891 222 +

BRIGHTON 771 781

MUSSELBURGH 772 782

WINDSOR (E) 773 783

PONTEFRAC (E) 774 784

ALL COURSES COMMENTARY 0891 222 780

ALL COURSES RESULTS 0891 222 790

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The Guardian INTERACTIVE

Musselburgh runners and riders

GRAHAM ROCK	TOP FORM
2.00 Midlight Orchid	Parus
2.30 Marigold	Marigold
3.00 Young Star	Young Star
3.30 Lady Lashed (alt)	Lady Lashed
4.00 Noddy Rocks	Noddy Rocks
4.30 Vice Presidential	Vice Presidential
5.00 Calveon	Calveon

Right-handed, oval track of almost 13m with sharp turns and 4f run-in. Straight 5f.

Gallop: Good, Good to Soft in Places. 5f & 8f tracks. Drums: High numbers best up to 1m. Stalled first time: 2.30 Duro. Visited: None.

2.00 WIMPEY HOMES E.B.F.

FLIES STAKES 2YO
5f £2,785 (7 declared)

1(1)	0.000000 (1) 5-5	Don. McIlwain
2(1)	0.000000 (1) 5-5	Don. McIlwain
3(1)	0.000000 (1) 5-5	Don. McIlwain
4(1)	0.000000 (1) 5-5	Don. McIlwain
5(1)	0.000000 (1) 5-5	Don. McIlwain
6(1)	0.000000 (1) 5-5	Don. McIlwain
7(1)	0.000000 (1) 5-5	Don. McIlwain

2.30 WIMPEY HOMES

CLAIMING STAKES (OV 1)
7f £2,635 (8 declared)

1(1)	0.000000 (1) 5-5	Don. McIlwain
2(1)	0.000000 (1) 5-5	Don. McIlwain
3(1)	0.000000 (1) 5-5	Don. McIlwain
4(1)	0.000000 (1) 5-5	Don. McIlwain
5(1)	0.000000 (1) 5-5	Don. McIlwain
6(1)	0.000000 (1) 5-5	Don. McIlwain
7(1)	0.000000 (1) 5-5	Don. McIlwain

3.00 WIMPEY HOMES CELEBRATION

FLIES STAKES 2YO
5f £2,941 (10 declared)

1(1)	0.000000 (1) 5-5	Don. McIlwain
2(1)	0.000000 (1) 5-5	Don. McIlwain
3(1)	0.000000 (1) 5-5	Don. McIlwain
4(1)	0.000000 (1) 5-5	Don. McIlwain
5(1)	0.000000 (1) 5-5	Don. McIlwain
6(1)	0.000000 (1) 5-5	Don. McIlwain
7(1)	0.000000 (1) 5-5	Don. McIlwain
8(1)	0.000000 (1) 5-5	Don. McIlwain
9(1)	0.000000 (1) 5-5	Don. McIlwain
10(1)	0.000000 (1) 5-5	Don. McIlwain

8.00 TOTE SPRINT HANDICAP

FLIES STAKES 2YO
6f £2,823 (14 declared)

1(1)	0.000000 (1) 5-5	Don. McIlwain
2(1)	0.000000 (1) 5-5	Don. McIlwain
3(1)	0.000000 (1) 5-5	Don. McIlwain
4(1)	0.000000 (1) 5-5	Don. McIlwain
5(1)	0.000000 (1) 5-5	Don. McIlwain
6(1)	0.000000 (1) 5-5	Don. McIlwain
7(1)	0.000000 (1) 5-5	Don. McIlwain
8(1)	0.000000 (1) 5-5	Don. McIlwain
9(1)	0.000000 (1) 5-5	Don. McIlwain
10(1)	0.000000 (1) 5-5	Don. McIlwain

8.30 MUTUAL CONDITIONS STAKES 2YO

FLIES STAKES 2YO
5f £4,536 (8 declared)

1(1)	0.000000 (1) 5-5	Don. McIlwain
2(1)	0.000000 (1) 5-5	Don. McIlwain
3(1)	0.000000 (1) 5-5	Don. McIlwain
4(1)	0.000000 (1) 5-5	Don. McIlwain
5(1)	0.000000 (1) 5-5	Don. McIlwain
6(1)	0.000000 (1) 5-5	Don. McIlwain
7(1)	0.000000 (1) 5-5	Don. McIlwain
8(1)	0.000000 (1) 5-5	Don. McIlwain

9.00 M.L. TELECOM MAIDEN STAKES 3YO

1m £4,137 (22 declared)

1(1)	0.000000 (1) 5-5	Don. McIlwain
2(1)	0.000000 (1) 5-5	Don. McIlwain
3(1)	0.000000 (1) 5-5	Don. McIlwain
4(1)	0.000000 (1) 5-5	Don. McIlwain
5(1)	0.000000 (1) 5-5	Don. McIlwain
6(1)	0.000000 (1) 5-5	Don. McIlwain
7(1)	0.000000 (1) 5-5	Don. McIlwain
8(1)	0.000000 (1) 5-5	Don. McIlwain
9(1)	0.000000 (1) 5-5	Don. McIlwain
10(1)	0.000000 (1) 5-5	Don. McIlwain

2.45 SELLING STAKES 2YO

FLIES STAKES 2YO
6f £1,819 (8 declared)

1(1)	0.000000 (1) 5-5	Don. McIlwain
2(1)	0.000000 (1) 5-5	Don. McIlwain
3(1)	0.000000 (1) 5-5	Don. McIlwain
4(1)	0.000000 (1) 5-5	Don. McIlwain
5(1)	0.000000 (1) 5-5	Don. McIlwain
6(1)	0.000000 (1) 5-5	Don. McIlwain
7(1)	0.000000 (1) 5-5	Don. McIlwain
8(1)	0.000000 (1) 5-5	Don. McIlwain

3.15 MEDIUM AUCTION MAIDEN STAKES

FLIES STAKES 2YO
6f £2,572 (8 declared)

1(1)	0.000000 (1) 5-5	Don. McIlwain
2(1)	0.000000 (1) 5-5	Don. McIlwain
3(1)	0.000000 (1) 5-5	Don. McIlwain
4(1)	0.000000 (1) 5-5	Don. McIlwain
5(1)	0.000000 (1) 5-5	Don. McIlwain
6(1)	0.000000 (1) 5-5	Don. McIlwain
7(1)	0.000000 (1) 5-5	Don. McIlwain
8(1)	0.000000 (1) 5-5	Don. McIlwain

Brighton with form guide

GRAHAM ROCK	TOP FORM
2.15 Samaria	Samaria
2.45 Tay Maria	Tay Maria
3.15 Benjamin Frank	Benjamin Frank
3.45 Induction	Induction
4.15	
4.45	

U-shaped left-handed course of 11m with 330 run-in. Sharp and undulating.

Gallop: Good, Good to Soft in places. 5f & 8f tracks. Drums: High numbers best in sprint. Seven day winners: None. Stalled first time: 2.15 Fiercely Ginger, 2.45 Lucky Red. Visited: None.

2.15 MAIDEN HANDICAP 3YO

FLIES STAKES 2YO
6f £1,198 (18 declared)

1(1)	0.000000 (1) 5-5	Don. McIlwain
2(1)	0.000000 (1) 5-5	Don. McIlwain
3(1)	0.000000 (1) 5-5	Don. McIlwain
4(1)	0.000000 (1) 5-5	Don. McIlwain
5(1)	0.000000 (1) 5-5	Don. McIlwain
6(1)	0.000000 (1) 5-5	Don. McIlwain
7(1)	0.000000 (1) 5-5	Don. McIlwain
8(1)	0.000000 (1) 5-5	Don. McIlwain
9(1)	0.000000 (1) 5-5	Don. McIlwain
10(1)	0.000000 (1) 5-5	Don. McIlwain

2.45 SELLING STAKES 2YO

FLIES STAKES 2YO
6f £1,819 (8 declared)

1(1)	0.000000 (1) 5-5	Don. McIlwain
2(1)	0.000000 (1) 5-5	Don. McIlwain
3(1)	0.000000 (1) 5-5	Don. McIlwain
4(1)	0.000000 (1) 5-5	Don. McIlwain
5(1)	0.000000 (1) 5-5	Don. McIlwain
6(1)	0.000000 (1) 5-5	Don. McIlwain
7(1)	0.000000 (1) 5-5	Don. McIlwain
8(1)	0.000000 (1) 5-5	Don. McIlwain
9(1)	0.000000 (1) 5-5	Don. McIlwain
10(1)	0.000000 (1) 5-5	Don. McIlwain

4.15 49'S HANDICAP (SHOWCASE RACE) 3YO

FLIES STAKES 2YO
6f £5,570 (9 declared)

1(1)	0.000000 (1) 5-5	Don. McIlwain
2(1)	0.000000 (1) 5-5	Don. McIlwain
3(1)	0.000000 (1) 5-5	Don. McIlwain
4(1)	0.000000 (1) 5-5	Don. McIlwain
5(1)	0.000000 (1) 5-5	Don. McIlwain
6(1)	0.000000 (1) 5-5	Don. McIlwain

Shearer makes a mint from a nauseous odour

Martin Kehner

THIS is the column Alan Shearer reads. Actually I am not sure it is, but I can't help feeling he would be prepared to say it were I to pay a sufficient sum into one of his bank accounts. The Screen Break column is therefore in much the same position as Lucozade Sport. The only difference is that my people and Shearer's people are yet to reach a financial accommodation. That detail is all that prevents me from basking in the enthusiastic endorsement of England's top striker for every year that follows. Thanks, Alan.

My feeling that Shearer will win anything for money arises from his starring role in the McDonald's advertisement running during the breaks in TV's World Cup coverage. In the ad, Shearer is sitting on a sofa, staring deep in thought when he is distracted by a seemingly delightful aroma coming from a seat behind. He turns around to find a Scotland supporter eating a McDonald's burger. Shearer goes into a frenzy and wonders whether the food in France will smell as good as the Big Mac.

Though neither I nor, more especially, this newspaper's readers would wish to criticise the Big Mac on nutritional grounds, I am a seasoned rail traveller and I would like to tell Shearer that there is little on this planet as fragrant than a football supporter in the seat behind

eatmap last noon.
Whatever the food might
be, still the writer of the cartoon
has the "Official Restaurant of
World Cup" (some would
say the use of the word "res-
taurant" is hyperbole writ-
ten even in the world of
eristics), on a train the
oil is a noxious combina-
tion of grease and cardboard.
To come over all Daily
graph about it, but my
is that people who carry
in paper bags of "food" out
their bars and on to trains
will be confined to a sepa-
rate cage at the back, pre-
serving as passive smok-
ers. No one whose innocent
nails have ever been as-
saulted by the smell of fast food

on a train could conceivably describe the smell as sweet. Shearer, one assumes, travels first class with his teammates and, provided Gazza is not allocated the seat behind him, would have no idea how nauseating the odour can be in a confined space such as a railway carriage.

The inestapable and shocking conclusion is that he is commending the smell of burgers and chips only because he has been paid a substantial sum of money to do so. One wonders how much it would be to stick one of the Linford Christie's running shoes on his nose and tell us how sweet the smell is.

He reminds me of the old joke in which a woman in a bar is asked by a man if she would sleep with him for a million pounds. She says she probably would. "All right then, how about sleeping with me for a penny?" he asks. "Certainly not," she replies. "What kind of girl do you think I am?" "We've already established that," he says. "Now we're just haggling

Not that I am opposed particularly to England's players grasping commercial opportunities. Anything that keeps Vic and Bob out of some of the ads is to be applauded. But those opportunities are so abundant that there is no need for the England captain to peddle the blatant lie that the smell of somebody else's stale snack can enhance a train journey.

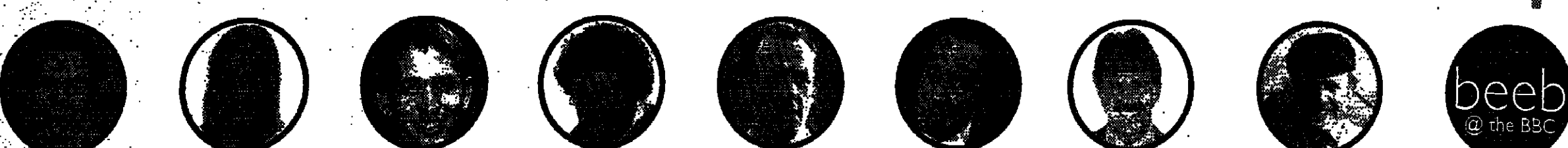
ADVERTISERS' mendacity was not the only reason ITV were clear losers in the first week of the World Cup. The presenter Bob Wilson, personable as though he is, seems edgier than ever, his rictus grin fixed to his face as he tries to create rapport with Terry Venables and Bobby Robson. On the other side, meanwhile, Des is triumphantly wise, and Gary Lineker genuinely seems to be enjoying himself, jollied along by Martin O'Neill and Ally McCoist, the best new panellists of the tournament so far.

But why has the BBC placed John Motson with a Spitting Image puppet? The voice was spot-on but Motty himself would never come up with anything quite as laboured as this intro to the Belgium-Holland match: "This fixture is as old as, well the hills exactly, because there aren't too many of those in these Low Countries, but it is much a part of the landscape of Belgium and Holland with windmills and tulips." And chocolates, Motty. Don't forget chocolates.

Weekend results

RUGBY UNION									
TWO MATCHES New Zealand A 18									
Boland 10									
INTERNATIONALS Australia 47									
South Africa 37; Ireland 18									
Tribut 1787 (Bucca) 37; France 18									
5 Puma 18									
RUGBY LEAGUE									
NATIONAL LEAGUE									
Salford 10									
On 10									
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the www.france98.beeb.com line-up



Ethiopian strikes again



On Helsinki's historic track this latest record was taken in his stride. 'I am very happy because I have kept my promise. Until I started I didn't know I would run for the world record. The last lap was a wonderful feeling'

Report by **Duncan Mackay**
Photograph by **Tor Wennstrom**

Gebrselassie glides to his fourth record

IN THE Helsinki stadium where Emil Zatopek made Olympic history in 1952 by winning gold medals in the 5,000 metres, 10,000m and marathon, Haile Gebrselassie made his own claim to immortality by breaking the world record for the 5,000m for a fourth time on Saturday.

With only the clock for company during the second half of the 12½-lap race, he was roared on by a crowd of 40,000 as he covered the last mile in 3min 58sec to finish in 12min 39.36sec and take 0.38sec off Daniel Komen's record.

He had taken the world record for the 10,000m in Hengelo so the 25-year-old Ethiopian has completed the task he had set himself this season, to regain the world marks for 5,000 and 10,000m he had lost in an hour to Komen and Paul Tergat, another Kenyan, in Brussels last August.

"I am very happy because I have kept my promise," said Gebrselassie.

"Until I started I didn't know I would run for the world record. The last lap was a wonderful feeling."

It was the 14th world record of his career and he joined Australia's Ron Clarke as the only men to break the 5,000m best four times.

Since Gebrselassie first set the record in 1994, it has improved by 19 seconds — more than 1½ seconds a lap.

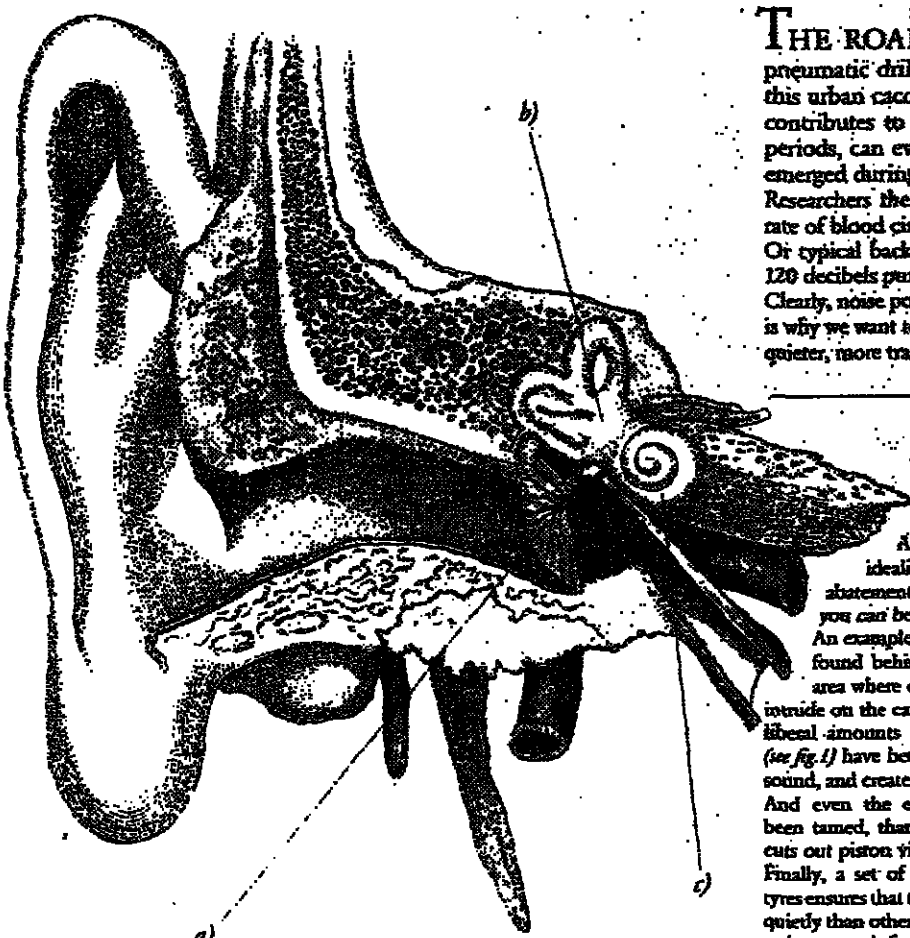
David Moorcroft, the last Briton to hold the record when he ran 13:00.41 in 1992, would have finished more than the length of the home straight behind Gebrselassie. "It's an awesome achievement," Moorcroft said last night. "I could never have envisaged seeing someone run that fast."

Gebrselassie now has his sights on Komen's 3,000m record of 7:20.67, which he hopes to break next month in Oslo.

Although the cool conditions were ideal for distance running, they were not conducive to fast sprinting. That made Mark Richardson's victory in the 400m all the more impressive.

The Windsor athlete booked his place in Britain's European Cup team, to be announced today, by running 44.53 to finish more than half a second ahead of his main rival Roger Black in second. Britain's athletes enjoyed a profitable evening. Colin Jackson regained his world top ranking place by winning the 110m hurdles in 13.12sec and the triple jumper Jonathan Edwards consolidated his position as No. 1 by keeping 17.64m for victory.

We even protect
THE BONES
THAT SEAT BELTS,
airbags and
crumple zones can't.



THE ROAR OF TRAFFIC, the blare of sirens, the rumble of pneumatic drills. Hardly a day passes when our ears aren't assaulted by this urban cacophony. More than just a minor irritation, excessive noise contributes to hearing loss, headaches, and stress. And, over sustained periods, can even increase blood pressure. That's the startling result that emerged during recent studies in Helsinki, Finland.
Researchers there found a level of 60-70 decibels was enough to change the rate of blood circulation. Way below the 90 decibels a lorry emits at 30 mph. Or typical background road noise levels of 80 decibels. Or the ear-splitting 120 decibels pumped out by a pneumatic drill.
Clearly, noise pollution can affect the health of each and every one of us. Which is why we want to spend a few minutes to tell you something about an altogether quieter, more tranquil alternative. The interior of a Vauxhall Omega.

YOU MAY NOT HAVE HEARD THIS.

IS YOUR car hushed enough to allow a conversation without shouting at motorway speeds? Is it insulated enough to hear Eric Clapton's Fender Stratocaster, without an engine accompaniment? According to our engineers, it ought to be. Far from being mere idealists, they actually practice what they preach in the area of noise abatement. If any part of the vehicle should emit the tiniest rattle or whine, you can be sure they'll silence it.
An example of their efforts can be found behind the dashboard, an area where engine noise can often intrude on the calm of the cabin. Here, liberal amounts of high-density foam (see fig 1) have been used to deaden the sound, and create a cocoon-like feel. And even the engine's roar itself has been tamed, thanks to a design which cuts out piston vibration.
Finally, a set of low rolling resistance tyres ensures that the Omega treads more quietly than other saloons. So, if you do arrive at work feeling fresher and more alert, it's probably because you can hear yourself think for a change.

DON'T JUST PROTECT YOUR EARS, PAMPER THEM.

WHAT better way to take advantage of a quieter cabin, than with an improved music system? Especially now doctors are prescribing our favourite tunes, as the way to reduce blood pressure, and lower stress hormone levels.
You'll find music can be even more restorative when you hear it on our state-of-the-art CCR Bose sound system.* The unit includes a six disc auto-changer CD player operated by the lightest touch of our steering wheel-mounted controls. It offers the kind of sound quality you're more likely to hear

AN INSTANT CURE FOR BARACIE.

YOU'RE on the way to a meeting, when you take the wrong turn off the motorway. Instead of shouting at your unfortunate navigator, wouldn't you rather consult our on-board navigation system, CARIN? Firstly, it details the quickest, most hassle-free route you can take from A to B, on a screen in front of you. (Informing you if you need to avoid roadworks or traffic jams.) Then, using satellite technology, it monitors your exact position, making it virtually impossible to end up in Farnham, instead of Farnborough.

COME IN FOR A HEARING TEST.

LISTEN to the dulcet tones of one of our salesmen. Hear exactly how quiet our noise improvements have made the Omega's cabin. Contact 0245 400 202 for details of your nearest Vauxhall dealership, and how to arrange a test drive.

Sound waves first strike the eardrum (a), causing the trio of tiny bones (b) to vibrate. These vibrations are then relayed to the cochlea (c), where they are converted into nerve impulses.

* CARRY A PIECE OF THE QUIET *

Concentrate on silence. When it comes, dwell on what it sounds like. Then strive to carry that quiet with you wherever you go.

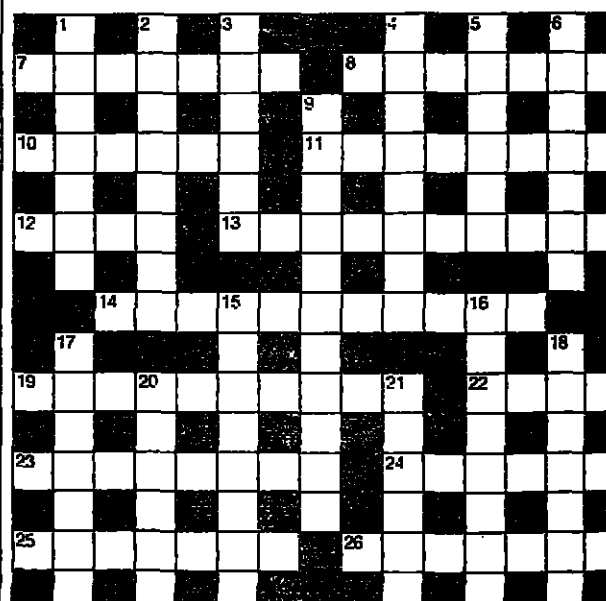
From 'The Little Book of Calm'



A Positive Aid To Relaxation: THE VAUXHALL, OMEGA

Guardian Crossword No 21,301

Set by Rufus



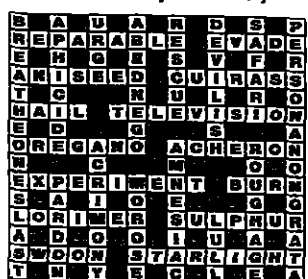
Across

- 7 Porter is about to dispatch messenger (7)
- 8 Mother's returning to Virginia, dressed in gold, in Russian vessel (7)
- 10 Coward's whirlwind success (5)
- 11 Admitting everyone is in arrears (8)
- 12 Divine waitress (4)
- 13 Used by riders — but they're not riding breeches (10)
- 14 Having no grave doubts? (4,7)
- 19 He was a student of equestrian form (7,3)
- 22 Exploit a twist of fate (4)
- 23 I'd copies made of TV soaps, perhaps (8)
- 24 One who treats vile disorder? Nonsense (6)
- 25 Challenging sanctimonious fashion designer (7)
- 26 Rider finds it difficult to hold a horse (7)

Down

- 1 One who is against work has a problem (7)
- 2 We are its ruin, so to speak (2,2,4)

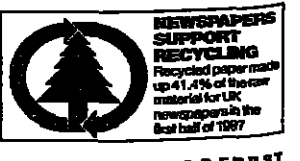
WINNERS OF PRIZE PUZZLE 21,294
This week's winners of a Collins English Dictionary are E. and P. Howe of Llanudoch, N. Wales; Mary Grylls, of Barnowby, Grantham; E. McNeil of Greenford, Middlesex; W. Fleming of Wallasey, Wirral; and R. Davies of Hitchin, Hertfordshire. Please allow 28 days for delivery.



- 3 Tries out wily muscles? (6)
- 4 Happen to be on the level, but gain no applause (4,4)
- 5 She plays a Shakespearean part for the network (6)
- 6 Ran wild in captivity, causing dreadful loss of life (7)
- 9 Supporter of something wicked (11)
- 15 The sort of contest that goes on in the ring (4-4)
- 16 Violate copyright, for example, of refining process (8)
- 17 A spider possibly saved Bruce from it (7)
- 18 River of wine (7)
- 20 Affected type from the Paris model agency (8)
- 21 Officer assisting general in plan that's crazy (6)

Solution tomorrow

Stuck? Then call our solutions line on 0891 336 236. Calls cost 50p per minute at all times. Service supplied by AUS.



Tuesday June 16 1998

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